

Barry Moore email to Republican Caucus

In recent weeks I have seen some good men step up and express their desire to fill the leadership void at the top of the People's House. I have heard a lot of talk about who will be the most fair and even-handed, or who will maintain the status quo or shake things up, and I have listened to discussions about where we have been and what brought us to this point -- with low morale, a damaged brand, and no leader.

What I have not heard, however, is a clear vision for where we are going to go from here. It is my belief that we must establish a vision to move forward, and the clarity of that vision depends upon our unwavering commitment to conservative principles and values.

Those of us who were first elected in 2010 felt like we were part of something special, something much bigger than ourselves. In an effort first begun by many of you who labored in the minority for decades, we promised the people of Alabama that if they gave us the power, they would finally get the conservative representation they so long deserved.

Unfortunately, the promise of 2010 has only been partially fulfilled. While we have accomplished some much needed reforms, somewhere along the way we lost our direction and sense of purpose.

For example, today we find ourselves two years away from an election and there are members who first came into office in 2014 who have never had the opportunity to vote on a tax cut for small businesses and working families.

This is unconscionable, and no doubt due to the fact that members have not had a loud enough voice in the legislative process. That must change.

My ideas for caucus priorities include tax cuts for small businesses and working families, a constitutional amendment to protect Alabama gun owners from being placed into the FBI database, a program to incentivize state agency leadership to cut wasteful spending from their departments, and legislation and compacts to protect our industries and resources such as farming and coal mining from the punitive effects of federal regulation. And every caucus agenda should include legislation to protect our state's unborn children.

I believe we need leadership who will embrace and advance a conservative agenda that apologetically puts working Alabamians first. That can be done by

unleashing the untapped potential of this caucus, every member of which is intimately familiar with the challenges of their Districts and the issues that resonate with their constituents. I also believe we need leadership whose motives are entirely above reproach. And we need a steady spokesman who can sell our collective ideas to the people of this state.

For those reasons, and after a great deal of soul searching and prayer, I am announcing my intention to run for Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives.

I look forward to talking with each of you in the coming days and weeks about my philosophical vision for us, as well as my vision for the operation of the House of Representatives in a more inclusive way under the common goal of conservative, ethical governance.