

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2012

PARMA, Idaho--District 11 State Senator Melinda Smyser (R-Parma) issued the following statement regarding her decision to not seek re-election:

"When I attended the Canyon County Republican Central Committee as a new precinct person, Patti Anne Lodge was there to welcome me. When I joined the Canyon County Republican Women, Patti Anne was there to welcome me. When I followed Patti Anne as President of Canyon County Republican Women and then as President of the Idaho Federation of Republican Women, Patti Anne Lodge was there to help me. When I became State Senator representing Canyon and Gem Counties, Senator Patti Anne Lodge was there to welcome and support me.

"Because of my friendship with and respect for Senator Patti Anne Lodge, I will not run for re-election to the new District 11 Senate seat. Redistricting has forced us into a race that I will not participate in.

"It has been a great honor to be part of the citizens' legislature. We don't own these seats, they belong to the people we represent.

"It is a privilege to work with my constituents to find solutions to the complex problems that face them on a daily basis. Whether it is dealing with agriculture research or placement of electrical transmission lines, I have had the opportunity to work with great people in finding answers. Whether the problems have been with education funding or technology in the classroom, I have been very impressed with the caliber of those that have come to the table to find 21st century solutions.

"For those in need because of the economic downturn or disability, I have a deep respect for their daily struggles. Working on these issues has touched my heart in a way that defies description.

"These four years have been special and I have learned so much. I have some regret in leaving the Idaho State Senate because there are several issues that I have not completed the work on. I have every intention to stay involved and I will announce my future plans soon.

"Citizen involvement is what makes our State and Country what it is. I plan to stay active and to continue to promote a conservative Republican agenda that will see the State of Idaho return to prosperity. I thank those I have served for their support and encouragement. "

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