

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TOM HATCH TO STEP DOWN DENNIS STOWELL TO RUN FOR UTAH STATE SENATE

PAROWAN, UT – Utah State Senator Tom Hatch, R – Panguitch, announced this afternoon that he will formally withdraw as a candidate for the Utah State Senate.

Hatch, who has served in the legislature for the past twelve years, said other commitments make it very difficult to represent the district in the manner he would like them to be represented.

In withdrawing from the race, Hatch gave a strong endorsement to Dennis Stowell, R – Parowan, who is now running for State Senate in District 28. “Dennis is someone I hold in high regard and who I feel can represent the district well,” stated Hatch. The two discussed the possibility of Stowell’s candidacy when it became clear that Hatch may have too many demands on his time to continue to serve in the senate.

“Dennis is a good man with an extensive background in public service. He served as Mayor of Parowan for 9 years and as an Iron County Commissioner for the past 10 years.” stated Hatch.

Stowell said, “Running for the State Senate was the furthest thing from my mind. I always figured I would be serving out the rest of my term as Iron County commissioner. In 2008 I planned to retire from politics so my wife and I could go on a mission.”

Stowell indicated that after Senator and Mrs. Hatch approached him and his wife, Marilee, they determined running for the senate was not only an interesting opportunity but the right thing to do. “It is a good time in our lives to take on this challenge, now that all our children are on their own. I have never felt better or had more energy. I wake up each morning grateful for another day of challenge and opportunity.”

Stowell continued, “Tom Hatch has been one of my heroes ever since we met; I know he will be missed. I sincerely appreciate his support and confidence. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to the upcoming election.”

Dennis Stowell is a rancher and licensed engineer. He holds a master’s degree in Chemical Engineering. He and his wife, Marilee, have lived in Parowan.

When Senator Hatch’s term ends at the end of the year, he will have completed 22 years of public service. He served as a Garfield County Commissioner from 1984 to 1994. In 1994 he was elected to the Utah House of Representatives. Hatch worked four two-year terms in the House, where he served as Vice Chair of Executive Appropriations, Rules Committee Chairman, and Majority Leader. When a new senate district was created in 2002, due to growth in Southwest Utah, Hatch was elected to the Utah Senate. In 2004,

then-Speaker of the House, Marty Stephens, selected Hatch as his running mate in his bid for governor.

“It’s nice to look back and know you made a difference,” Hatch said. “And it’s comforting to know the people and the communities you care about will be in good hands.” He highlighted his legislative contributions to the state, including his 2003 bill that moved our public education system from a time-spent-in-the-chair system to a competency based system, the creation of the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund, and the past session’s Lake Powell Pipeline legislation which will allow for the continued growth of Utah’s Southwest.

“I am looking forward to spending time with my family and pursuing other interests,” said Hatch. “This has been a great experience; I am grateful for my opportunity to spend some good years in service of the citizens of District 28 – the best and most beautiful senate district on earth.”

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