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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Republican Ken H. Fortenberry files for U.S. Congress in North Carolina's 10th Congressional district.

Lincoln County businessman Fortenberry seeks the GOP nomination in NC 10th Congressional district. He will face incumbent Patrick McHenry in the May 8 Republican primary.

Denver, NC – February 14, 2012. Republican congressional candidate Ken H. Fortenberry officially filed today for the U.S. House of Representatives seat currently held by Patrick McHenry in North Carolina's 10th district. Fortenberry describes himself as a Southern conservative who believes in small government and fiscal responsibility. He pledges to fight for jobs and traditional family values.

Ken Fortenberry has been meeting with people all across the 10th District since last August, listening to their concerns and sharing with them his commitment to jobs, traditional family values and smaller, less-intrusive government. "Everywhere I go, people tell me they are fed up with business as usual in Washington and want a representative who will represent them – not highly-funded special-interest groups. They want a congressman who will honestly listen to them and work earnestly to get our country back on track," he said.

Fortenberry strongly shares the concerns of voters across his district and pledges to "avoid the petty partisan bickering in Washington and work to get things done, not stand in the way of improving the lives of the American people."

Fortenberry describes his opponent, Congressman Patrick McHenry, as a Washington insider and career politician who has lost touch with the people of his district. He defines McHenry as a "politics-as-usual elected official who is more worried about his job security than creating jobs for the American people."

Furthermore, Fortenberry states, "As a member of Congress, I will restore integrity to the office and I will not be a puppet of corrupt leadership" – clearly alluding to Patrick McHenry's association with his staff underage drinking and voter fraud scandals as well as the Congressman's close relationship with now-disgraced former House GOP leader Tom Delay.

Fortenberry also faults Congressman McHenry for his cozy relationship with big banks and says, "Jeff Taylor of the John Locke Foundation said it best when it wrote "we actually have the chairman of a

subcommittee of the House of Representatives [Patrick McHenry] suggesting, in deed if not word, that the first job of local government is to pay bond traders and mega-banks instead of cops, firemen, and school teachers."

Republican candidate Fortenberry promises a congressional campaign focused on policy issues and personal values. He describes himself "as born-again Republican who has at times wandered the political desert since first volunteering for the Barry Goldwater for President campaign in 1964. Like Ronald Reagan, Jesse Helms or Michelle Bachman, he was at one point a registered Democrat. But he says, "I have always held true to the values of traditional conservatism and small government, personal integrity and ethics in government."

About NC Congressional District 10:

The 10th Congressional District of North Carolina includes all of Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland, Polk, Rutherford and parts of Buncombe and Catawba counties.

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