



**PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, PASCO, WA  
GEORGE CICOTTE ENDORSEMENT OF CLINT DIDIER**

I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to endorse Clint Didier as our next Representative in Congress.

As you all know, I worked hard to earn the opportunity to serve as our next Representative. During that six-month process, I was able to get to know both of the current candidates. They are both good men who have a strong desire to serve our country, and I respect them both. Indeed, deciding which Republican I would vote for in November has been a challenging process, because again, both candidates are good men striving to do what they think is best, and what will best serve the interests of our District.

I am making an endorsement today because during the primary campaign I gained inside knowledge and insight on both candidates, and I have a firm conviction that Clint Didier is the better choice of the two. There are three primary reasons I support Clint.

First, Clint and I share the goal of restoring respect for our Constitution. I happen to believe our Constitution is an inspired document. As Americans we all must recognize that it's the Constitution that has enabled our nation to be the longest lasting, self-governing country in the history of the world. Currently in D.C., the Constitution seems out of fashion. Rather than acting with respect and restraint in accordance with Constitutional balances of power, politicians trample it, and seek to usurp as much power as is possible. Moreover, they try to minimize the timeless rights and responsibilities granted in the Bill of Rights, to suit whatever political goals are currently fashionable. As just one example, that any American would ever consider free contraception to be even on the same scale as the First Freedom in the Bill of Rights – the right to the free exercise of religion – is astounding. And yet, many do. If ever there was a time when our Constitution needs to be defended, that time is now, and Clint Didier is the man who wants to do that.

Second, Clint is a leader. Now, he and I may not agree on everything, but I know where he stands, and I know I can trust him to do what he'll say he'll do. What are those things? Limit the excessive growth of federal government agencies, work for a balanced

budget, and defend the Constitution. When I hear Clint speak, I hear a man of conviction who is not running for personal opportunity, but who is running because he loves his country. This is not the time to elect a representative who is a follower –who will merely “go along to get along” with whatever the hierarchy directs. Look where that has gotten us – to a Congress that doesn’t lead, but merely spends as much as possible to keep lobbyists and special interests happy, and to assure reelection for decades. Clint Didier is the voice of the people in this election. Lobbying groups and special interests are aligning pervasively on the side of Clint’s opponent. That means that he’ll be looking out for their interests, not ours. Clint Didier will represent me, not the big-moneyed special interests that are destroying our country for their own self-interested profiteering.

Third, Clint’s playing fair and his opposition isn’t. It offends me that our current Representative is doing everything he can to personally select his successor. That’s not the American way. We the people have the right to choose our elected representatives without interference from those who think they know better than we do, or who want to rig elections for their own self-interest, and that is exactly what is happening here. Please understand I’m not talking merely about Representative Hastings’ announcement to endorse Clint’s opponent a few weeks ago – this goes much deeper than that. Last March, Doc sent his campaign manager to work for Clint’s opponent. The campaign manager brought Doc’s massive incumbent fundraising resources to the opposition. Over the next several months, Clint’s opponent travelled throughout the District with the message that he was Doc’s anointed successor, and that Doc’s donors needed to support him now. How do I know this? Because a number of folks who had been Doc donors supported me, and they told me about the repeated pressure they experienced to support the opposition as “Doc’s successor.” An open-seat election ought to be a fair competition, not a rigged attempt to hand off a baton to a political insider. Moreover, the opposition is already facing validated charges of unethical behavior in campaigning and fundraising. This type of improper behavior is already too prevalent in D.C. and is exactly what I don’t want. I am endorsing Clint Didier because his track record is clean, and because he’s not part of the unseemly political establishment that works to sustain its own without regard for what is best for our Nation and our district.

So, to sum it up, Clint Didier is a leader with a clean and ethical track record who will work to support and defend the Constitution. That is what I wanted to be – someone who could restore trust in politics. After speaking with both candidates countless times over the six-month primary election period, I am convinced that Clint Didier will strive to do what is right rather than what is expedient or what other politicians want him to do. I call that being trustworthy, and that is why I support Clint Didier.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my reasons for supporting Clint Didier with you today. I’m open for any questions you may have about this announcement.