

Thank you Governor Minner for the confidence you have shown in me. It is a particular honor coming from you. For the over 30 years I have known you, I have watched you become the embodiment of the American dream. In everything you have done you have demonstrated the character to stand by your principles and do it with the highest integrity.

It is a great honor to be picked to serve in the senate seat so ably filled for by Senator Biden. We in Delaware have known what an extraordinary Senator he has been, evidenced by his reelection 7 times. It has been rewarding to see that rest of America and the world come to know and appreciate him in the past 3 months.

The people of Delaware voted for Senator Biden in overwhelming numbers. All Senators have to constantly decide between the wishes of their constituents and their own beliefs. I am comfortable adding a third leg to the stool which how senator Biden would have voted in the senate. The people of Delaware deserve to have the representation they voted for. Fortunately I agree with the vast majority of his positions.

This is also exciting for me because President Elect Barrack Obama is clearly beginning what I believe will be a transformational presidency. Fortunately I have had the privilege to work directly with the President and VP elect over the past weeks in the transition.

It has been pointed out, that I will have limited seniority. However, having worked and studied the senate for 36 years I know having a relationship with the President and Vice-President will help me to effectively represent the people of the State Of Delaware.

In addition, I am also very comfortable with retiring after 2 years. I have never considered running for public office and this will assure that there will be an open election for the people of Delaware in 2010.

I would not be here without the constant support of my wife Lynne and our family. They have stood by me throughout my career in public service and I am proud to have them with me for this next step in our journey. We are all ready and excited for this great adventure

Finally, I feel genuinely blessed to have the opportunity to use what I have learned in the service of the state and country I love.