

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **John Russell Endorsed by Connie Pillich**

### *Former Gubernatorial Candidate Backs Russell in Race*

Columbus, Ohio — Today, in an email sent out to former supporters and constituents, former-Gubernatorial candidate Connie Pillich formally endorsed candidate John Russell for Ohio's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:

“John Russell is the right candidate for 2018. I am excited to support his candidacy, and I hope that you will too.”

Pillich said, when she was running for Governor, voters across Ohio resoundingly told her that they want elected officials who will put them first—representatives who care about voters' everyday problems. She believes that there are too many people in our communities who feel like they've been left behind.

“Voters are looking for new ideas and new leadership,” Pillich said. “John is running as a rural, progressive Democrat—he speaks to the issues of many rural and middle-class voters that either stayed home or went the other way in 2016.”

The former State Representative touched on Russell's progressive credentials, including: his support of universal single-payer healthcare and raising the minimum wage, his refusal to accept corporate donations, as well as his history of activism. She has been particularly impressed by his willingness to meet with voters, saying:

“John has kept his promises: in his announcement speech, he pledged to step foot in ‘every corner of this district.’ John has filled his schedule with town hall after town hall over the past few months, organizing nearly 15 stops of a town hall tour that has encouraged every citizen of the 12<sup>th</sup> District to come out and have their voice be heard.”

Pillich concluded by noting that, if the last year has taught us anything, it's that Democrats can win difficult seats if they run the right candidates. In the 12<sup>th</sup> District, that means a candidate that can speak to the issues prevalent in both rural and urban communities.’

“I've run in tough, gerrymandered districts before and won—it takes a special kind of candidate, Pillich said. “John Russell has what it takes to bring back the voters that have been leaving our Party for years and win this seat.”

#### **For more information, contact:**

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