

To: Interested Parties

From: Tim Edson, Hoosiers for Rokita

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Subject: What Moore's Victory in Alabama Means for 2018 Bellwether IN Senate Primary

Every state has unique dynamics, but Roy Moore's victory over Senator Luther Strange in the Alabama Republican primary runoff last night makes clear the anti-establishment fervor among primary voting Republicans is still a powerful force. If the Republican primary for President were held again today, the results would be the same in Indiana, and across the country. The outsider candidate in Alabama tapped into the same anti-elite message that elevated President Trump in the 2016 Republican primary. Looking ahead to 2018, the dynamic is going to be alive and well among Indiana's Republican primary electorate too, and with an early date, the Indiana Republican Senate primary will serve as a bellwether for the nation. **Hoosier Republicans are not going to let Republican elites pick their nominee.**

According to Politico former lobbyist Luke Messer, *"has enjoyed the full embrace of Indiana's political elite, which appointed him to a seat in the state Legislature and embraced him as part of its leadership."* The darling of the Indiana's Republican establishment, Messer is trying to run against the Senate, but no one is going to believe that pitch from the ultimate Republican insider.

Meanwhile, Todd Rokita has always fought from the outside, getting things done while challenging Democrats and the Republican establishment. According to Politico, *"that same elite has always kept Rokita at bay"* because *"Rokita appears endlessly willing to take on unpopular — but important — fights."* From fighting voter fraud to advancing redistricting reform to taking tough stands in Congress, Rokita doesn't back down, and he doesn't kowtow to the Republican establishment elite or the media.

There is going to be a clear contrast in the Republican U.S. Senate primary, and it puts Todd Rokita at a distinct advantage. Luke Messer faces severe vulnerabilities which will drag down his candidacy, especially after voters become aware of:

- Messer setting the agenda in Congress as a member of leadership
- Messer's work as a lobbyist
- Messer benefitting from a lucrative business arrangement only available to a well-connected political insider
- Messer siding with the media and liberal elite by disparaging Donald Trump during the 2016 election against Hillary Clinton
- Messer following in the footsteps of Dick Lugar and Evan Bayh by selling his home in Indiana and moving to a wealthy suburb of Washington, D.C.

Hoosier Republicans want a conservative and a fighter, not a country club Republican or a hotel Hoosier. Todd Rokita is winning the race and under fire from the media, from Messer's campaign and from Joe Donnelly and his liberal Washington allies. Republicans continue to recognize that Todd Rokita has the right enemies gunning to defeat him. **With 7 months to go to the Republican primary, Todd Rokita is in a strong position to capture the Republican nomination, and Todd has the work ethic and fight to aggressively challenge Joe Donnelly on every issue he has shown himself to be a Washington liberal and defeat him in 2018.**