

**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Heartland Partnership CEO Announces Exploratory Congressional Committee**

*Peoria, IL* – Jim McConoughey, 46, President and CEO of The Heartland Partnership, today announces an exploratory committee for the Illinois 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District seat.

“Following the announcement of Congressman Ray LaHood that he will not seek reelection, I have been encouraged by many community leaders to consider running for his open seat. I am honored that many consider me a worthy candidate for this important position,” McConoughey stated. “As a result, I am announcing that I will form an exploratory committee to consider all options related to my possible candidacy for United States Congress.” Former Caterpillar Chairman Glen Barton and other leaders throughout Central Illinois will join the exploratory committee.

As the CEO of The Heartland Partnership, Jim McConoughey recognizes the importance of strong leadership for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in Washington. He believes that the continued success of our region will be dependent on sustaining the level of hard-work and cooperation set forth by Congressman LaHood and his predecessors.

“I will use the next several weeks to reflect on this important decision and consult with a broad range of people in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and most importantly, my family.”

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ATTACHMENT: Jim McConoughey Biography