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**Former Small Business Owner Jean Sivoli Launches Campaign for SD-12**

*Democratic nominee to focus on opening up new markets for farmers, raising teacher pay*

**Spring Lake** – This weekend, former small business owner and Harnett County Democratic Party chairman Jean Sivoli launched her campaign to represent Senate district 12 after former Democratic nominee Howard Baldwin withdrew for personal reasons.

“I’m running to show what’s possible when we care about all people, not just those who agree with us,” Mrs. Sivoli said. “We need to create a level playing field, so all our citizens have a fair opportunity to achieve the Great American Dream.”

Mrs. Sivoli is focused on the issues facing the people of Lee, Harnett and Johnston county, such as expanding health care coverage, improving our public schools, and combatting the growing opioid crisis. Mrs. Sivoli will also work on increasing markets for local agricultural products and increasing teacher pay.

“I’m running to give real ideas for real issues,” Mrs. Sivoli said. “We have serious issues that the state legislature needs to address including jobs and the economy, public education, health care, and the opioid epidemic.

“We need to stop these harmful trade wars and open up new markets for our farmers, not give them temporary bailouts,” Mrs. Sivoli continued. “We should also make North Carolina a leader in public education again. We must raise teacher pay, support our

public schools with the resources they need, and give educators the respect they deserve. That's exactly what I will do when I get to Raleigh.”

Mrs. Sivoli and her husband, Tony have lived in North Carolina for more than 23 years. They currently live in the Anderson Creek community in Spring Lake. Now retired, Mrs. Sivoli enjoyed a successful career in purchasing, sales, and marketing. She has been a small business owner in the restaurant, catering, and event planning industry before retiring, and formerly worked at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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