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# Paul Nehlen: Speaker Ryan Gets A Conservative Challenger

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George Rasley, CHQ Editor | 3/30/2016

Wisconsin businessman Paul Nehlen announced yesterday that he is challenging House Speaker Paul D. Ryan in the Republican primary, saying he's "had it" with the Speaker betraying conservatives.

"Ted Cruz and Donald Trump have become front-runners in this presidential election cycle because they have dared to communicate an anti-establishment message. They won't be alone," Nehlen said. "I will bring the fight straight to one of the most powerful establishment players in Washington, taking him on right here in Wisconsin's 1st District. Paul Ryan is a career politician. It's time that career came to an end."

Paul Ryan's embrace of big government spending, his continued support of illegal immigration and imported workers, and his championing of the job-killing trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership betrays me, this district, and this nation. He's failed to put America's security and American jobs first.

*I've had it. We've all had it.*

*- Paul Nehlen*



"Paul Ryan's embrace of big government spending, his continued support of illegal immigration and imported workers, and his championing of the job-killing trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership betrays me, this district, and this nation," said Nehlen.

"He's failed to put America's security and American jobs first. I've had it. We've all had it," said Mr. Nehlen, a successful executive, entrepreneur and inventor who previously donated to Ryan's campaigns according to reporting by The Washington Times' S.A. Miller.

As S.A. Miller reported in *The Washington Times*, the emergence of a viable Republican challenger in the district is the culmination of a months-long recruitment effort by tea party activists who say they were double-crossed by Mr. Ryan when he passed a \$2 trillion spending package late last year.

A political adviser close to Paul Nehlen has acknowledged that it won't be easy to defeat Speaker Ryan, who was the party's 2012 vice presidential nominee, currently ranks as one of the most powerful Republicans in Washington and has more than \$5 million in his campaign war chest.

The businessman is prepared to put a substantial amount of his personal fortune into the campaign, according to the adviser to Miller's reporting on the campaign.

While it's often an uphill run, concluded Miller, there is precedent for a tea party challenger toppling a member of the House Republican leadership. Eric Cantor, while serving as majority leader, lost his seat in a Richmond, Virginia, suburb in a 2014 primary upset to tea-party-backed Dave Brat.

Paul Nehlen first popped onto our radar as the author of an outstanding op-ed in *The American Thinker* in which he made the case that Paul Ryan has gotten completely out of touch with America outside the Beltway.

After Ryan delivered a presidential-style address calling for an end to partisanship and unity in Washington Paul Nehlen offered this take which very much mirrored our own:

The problem is that Washington's elite class, of which Paul Ryan has become a top-ranking member, hasn't had any respect for the rest of us for a very long time. Consequently, yes, we have lost faith in our representatives and in our government. It's not just a bunch of us out here, frustrated over nothing. Most of the reasons for our dissatisfaction, disillusionment, and anger either reside in our nation's capital or are the brain-children of those who do.

Quite frankly, the whole of Ryan's speech comes down to this: a Washington blue-blood reminds us uncooperative plebeians that we should smile and hold hands and trust our leaders so that they can continue to inspire us with their spectacular and never-ending betrayals – betrayals such as Paul Ryan's ongoing embrace of massive spending, lopsided trade agreements, and troubling immigration policies. In fact, in light of this week's fresh attacks by radical Islamists in Brussels, Belgium, Ryan's already unpopular stance on immigration is likely growing more so by the minute.

Nehlen made a further observation that we agreed with completely – one section of Ryan's speech, in particular, gets things absolutely backward:

All of us as leaders can hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity and decency. Instead of playing to your anxieties, we can appeal to your aspirations. Instead of playing the identity politics of “our base” and “their base,” we unite people around ideas and principles. And instead of being timid, we go bold.

We don't resort to scaring you, we dare to inspire you. We don't just oppose someone or something. We propose a clear and compelling alternative. And when we do that, we don't just win the argument. We don't just win your support. We win your enthusiasm. We win hearts and minds. We win a mandate to do what needs to be done to protect the American Idea.

To be immediately clear, said Nehlen, "I'm all for finding common ground on issues. In fact, I actually believe there's plenty of it. *The problem is, it's almost never where Ryan and his Washington buddies seek or attempt to fabricate it, frequently by means of deception.* (Emphasis ours) So, a cynical read on Ryan's words, above, ends up being the only prudent one."

As far as we're concerned the fact that Paul Nehlen understands how deception and fabrication are now baked into the cake in almost everything the Republican leadership in Congress does makes him the perfect candidate to take on Paul Ryan. Watch CHQ for more on this important race and how you can help principled limited government constitutional conservative Paul Nehlen defeat career politician Paul Ryan.

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