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Swanton, Vt., July 1 -- Former State Auditor Randy Brock has announced that he will be a candidate for State Senator from Franklin County.

"Now more than ever, we need new, energetic leadership in the Legislature to deal with some of the most serious fiscal challenges that Vermont has ever faced," said Brock. "I am ready to roll up my sleeves to help tackle these issues, and I believe I have the track record of working across party lines to solve real problems."

The Franklin Senate District, in the northwestern corner of the state, is one of Vermont's 13 senate districts. It includes all of Franklin County, except the towns of Montgomery and Richford, as well as the town of Alburgh in Grand Isle County.

"Vermont is in a recession," Brock went on to say. "Our jobs are evaporating and tax revenues are drying up. Property taxes, education spending and Medicare costs are skyrocketing. The housing market is in trouble. The cost of fuel is driving prices for goods and services higher. Our young people are fleeing Vermont in search of good paying jobs. And this winter, not just the poor, but also the middle class, will be suffering as a result of the highest fuel oil costs in history."

Brock accused legislative leaders of misdirecting their priorities on what he called "boutique issues," like non-binding impeachment resolutions or trying to decriminalize marijuana while criminalizing advertising 'puppies for sale' without a license. "They should have been taking action on issues that are affecting the daily lives of every Vermonter," he added.

Brock said that if elected he would work to champion economic development, job creation, sound energy policy, affordable housing and property tax reform. He also pledged to work on finding ways to solve the health care cost crisis.

Recalling his term as auditor, Brock pointed to several high profile audits he led that resulted in millions of dollars in savings. He cited an audit of the Medicaid pharmacy program that surfaced hundreds of duplicate and erroneous claims, an audit of the Windham County Sheriff that exposed thousands of dollars of fraudulent spending and a review of the controversial Chittenden Regional Technical Academy that resulted in tighter controls over state construction contracting.

Brock, a Swanton Republican, was elected auditor in 2004 and was narrowly defeated for re-election in an historic recount in 2006. "Although I seriously considered a bid for auditor this year, I decided that it would not be appropriate to run against someone who was serving his country in a combat zone and who would be unable to campaign," Brock said. "I also feel that I could be of greater service in the Senate, where I could work on crafting solutions to Vermont's fiscal crisis."

Brock retired in 2003 as executive vice president of risk oversight for Fidelity Investments, one of the world's largest financial services companies. A Vermont resident since 1970, Brock has lived in Swanton for the past 22 years. He and his wife, Andrea, have one daughter.

Brock is chair of the Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and he is also a member of the association's National Board of Directors. He is a trustee of the Vermont Historical Society and this year joined the board of the Vermont Law School.

A Vietnam veteran, Brock left the Regular Army as a captain in the Military Police Corps. He holds the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service and the Army Commendation Medal with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.

Brock holds a bachelors degree from Middlebury College and a masters degree from Yale University.

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