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Hensarling Statement on the Retirement of Conservative Leader John Shadegg

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, issued the following statement today after Congressman John Shadegg (R-AZ), former Chairman of the RSC, announced that he will retire at the end of the 110th Congress:

“John Shadegg is a great friend, mentor, and a giant within the conservative movement in America and I’m both saddened and inspired by his announcement today.

“I’m saddened because no one knows and appreciates a principled fight like John Shadegg. But John doesn’t just fight to fight – he does so to advance deeply held principles of limited government and maximum individual freedoms based in our Constitution. And he’ll defend those principles no matter who the opponent is— including his own party leadership.

“There’s no better example of this spirit than, as Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, his successful effort to bring down the rule for the bankruptcy bill because it contained provisions drafted by Chuck Schumer aimed at making it harder for peaceful pro-life protestors to discharge their debts. John stood up on principle, led a courageous charge, and as a result conservatives won.

“I’m inspired because I know that whatever path John may take, he will remain actively involved in the conservative movement. John has been the true citizen legislator, a conservative’s conservative in the mold of Senator Goldwater, whose passion for liberty and conservative principles is truly inspirational.

“Make no mistake: The retirement of John Shadegg is a colossal loss for the Republican Study Committee. However, I’m confident that, though John may be geographically far from the battles for freedom in Washington, he will remain at the center of the fight for conservative, constitutional principles at all times wherever he goes. I know that his future is very bright and hold out hope that one day his path might lead back to public service. In the meantime, I look forward to his continued counsel and wish him and his family all the best always.”