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By ROBERT PIERCE • Daily Leader

Tracey Mann, a fifth generation Kansan, business leader and former student body president at Kansas State University, announced his candidacy Saturday for the Republican nomination for U.S.

Mann said the Congressman instilled in him a deep love for Kansas and Kansans, which he said has never left him.

"I'm running because I care," he said. "I'm also very concerned about the direction our country is headed in with our skyrocketing national debt and our annual national deficits. I feel like we've got to begin to exercise from fiscal restraint in Washington. That's why I'm running instead of complaining about the problems and to try to do something about it."

Mann said he is concerned about many things, but one of the biggest is fiscal responsibility.

"We cannot continue year after year to rack up and increase our national debt," he said. "Our

national debt today is \$11 trillion, which is more than \$30,000 per American. That has had and will continue to have negative effects on our economy. I'm very, very concerned about that."

Also on Mann's agenda is continuing good agricultural policies.

"I'm a farm kid," he said. "My family farms here in Southwest Kansas, and I care very much about our ag policy."

Mann said government officials also need to make sure the environmental regulations farmers are to comply with make sense.

"We've got to continue to advocate to an evermore urban Congress about the needs of everyday farmers," he said. "Most members of Congress don't even understand what life is like for a Kansas wheat farmer or a corn farmer or a feedyard operator."

Mann also believes the government needs to examine economic development closely.

"We've got to continue to develop our economy," he said. "We've got to continue to help basic businesses that are located in the First District grow and expand and recruit new businesses to our district as well."

Mann shares a similar belief system to the majority of those in the Sunflower State.

"I'm pro-life," he said. "I'm for the traditional marriage. I own a gun and think you should be able to as well."

Mann said running against his former employer does bring a lot of challenges, but he is ready for the race to Washington, D.C.

"To cover 69 counties takes a lot of energy," he said. "It takes a lot of stamina. I think it takes an energetic spirit. I'm a very, very hard worker, and I'm really excited about it. I learned a ton from Jerry in the time that I interned for him, and I'm really excited to put those things I learned from him to good use in serving the people of the district."

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