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# News Release

## **Libertarian Candidate for U.S. Senate calls out cronyism, status quo**

**Ogden, UT, November 2, 2017:** Craig Bowden, a Libertarian candidate seeking office for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Orrin Hatch, met with students at Weber State University in Ogden Thursday evening to address corporate cronyism in government in an event hosted by Young Americans for Liberty and Americans for Prosperity.

“No one in government should be able to offer special privileges not afforded the American public,” he said when addressing the how Democrats and Republicans are able to push favors for individuals like campaign donors. “The plain and simple fact is that the family members and campaign donors of Presidents, Senators, and Congressmen should not be getting any special or preferential treatment in regard to contracts, laws to help their businesses, tax breaks, or any other kinds of favors. It should be illegal.”

Mr. Bowden also addressed lobbyists trying to put regulations in the way of competition. “Just like the incidents that happened with the rise of Uber and Lyft in Utah, the taxi companies lobbied to try to get them held to the same regulatory standard to offer people rides for payment.” Craig said. “Instead of trying to block out competition, maybe they should advocate for a freer market so they can have a wider base of users when their fees are decreased from government not being so overbearing with occupational licensing.”

Mr. Bowden discussed the harm these lobbying efforts have on small businesses and entrepreneurs in Utah and throughout the country, citing tariffs, occupational licensing, burdensome regulations, and lobbying efforts for laws to push out competition as detrimental to growth in the United States.

“When we continue to send back people like Senator Hatch, who has given preferential treatment to his donors, like the case of Big Pharmaceutical companies who make up a large sum of his campaign war chest, we just wind up with the same level of cronyism we have had for several decades. The corruption is tied in to a government that shouldn’t have this much power. It is affecting your wallet and way of life as the costs are passed on to you. Without competition, monopolies can charge whatever they want. Just look at what happened with the Epi-Pen last year.” He said. “Without cronyism, protectionism, and special favors, we would all be doing better instead of only an elite few who have the lobbying money to keep competition out.”

