

Untitled document

Congressman tells the Salem Rotary he'd talk tax reform to balance the budget.

By Jake O'Donnell

Salem Patch, January 27, 2012

U.S. Rep. Charles Bass (R-N.H.) addressed the Greater Salem Rotary Club Friday at Rockingham Park and expressed that while he loves serving in Washington, losing an election isn't the end of the world in his eyes.

"I am doing this for no other reason than to try and make a contribution," said Bass, who faces a re-election campaign this fall. "If I lose the election this year, I'd die a happy man."

Bass served from 1995 to 2007 in the U.S. House and lost his seat to Democrat Paul Hodes. He was re-elected in 2010, beating Democrat Ann McLane Kuster. The Peterborough native has been successful in business and said Friday he hopes to go back into that world someday.

Bass talked to the club about ongoing Washington issues, saying he's willing to negotiate on tax reform, something that draws the ire of his more conservative colleagues on Capitol Hill.

"Everything is on the table for me," Bass said. "I'm part of the 'Go Big Group' as it's known in Washington, which has the goal of making big changes on the expenditure side of this nation but also be willing to debate the issue of tax reform to raise some portion of that budget gap in the form of revenues."

Bass also engaged Rotarians on the perception of Congress nationally, environmental issues, taxes and the war in Afghanistan, where Bass says he agrees with President Barack Obama's plan to withdraw.

"We're in the wrong country," Bass said. "Pakistan is the problem."