



AP

VERMONT CONGRESSMAN Bernie Sanders, I-Burlington, formally announces his campaign for re-election at the Burlington Boathouse Wednesday.

Sanders launches bid for re-election

By ROSS SNEYD
The Associated Press

BURLINGTON — Rep. Bernard Sanders formally launched his re-election campaign Wednesday with a promise to continue fighting for the poor, elderly, working people and family farmers.

The speech before about 75 enthusiastic supporters was vintage Sanders, with denunciations of multinational corporations, lawyers, lobbyists and rich business leaders.

"While corporate executives give themselves enormous bonuses in stock options, report after report shows that the majority of new jobs being created in this country are part-time, low-wage and temporary jobs, most often without health care benefits, retirement benefits, vacation time or sick leave," Sanders said.

Sanders made his formal announcement at the Burlington Boathouse, the central attraction of the city's Waterfront Park, which he helped to develop during his final years as Burlington mayor.

Sanders said his accomplishments as the only independent in Con-

Continued from PAGE 1

gress may not be as visible as the popular Burlington attraction, but they were no less worthwhile.

Among the things Sanders cited as successes were his "leadership role to establish a universal health care system through the single payer approach;" higher taxes on the wealthy and lower taxes on the poor; family and medical leave; cancer prevention legislation; a bill to increase the minimum wage; and efforts to promote environmental health and disease prevention.

"Although I am proud of the way in which I have fought for the interests of the citizens of Vermont and for the needs of all Americans, I am running for re-election not just on my record but because so much more needs to be done," Sanders said.

Sanders generally attracts an eclectic crowd of supporters and his announcement speech was no exception. Surrounding him as he spoke were two members of the state Legislature – Sen. Elizabeth Ready, D-Addison, and Rep. Robert Starr, D-Troy – and representatives of organized-labor, the elderly, abortion rights organizations, farmers and the poor.

"America's poor and oppressed must, once again, be afforded the full rights of citizenship as they strive to make a better life for themselves and their children," Sanders said.

So far, the only big name opponent that Sanders faces is state Sen. John Carroll of Windsor County, who was the Republican leader in the Senate the past two years.

The Democratic Party had expected the little-known Lewis Young of Dummerston to run against Sanders again this year, as he had two years ago. But party Chairwoman Maida Townsend said she learned Wednesday that Young was withdrawing from the race and intended to support Carroll.

Townsend had not been able to confirm that and a message left at Young's home was not immediately returned.

Townsend said she would try to find a candidate before the July 18 filing deadline. "Clearly, the race as a race remains important to us and we do want to see a credible challenge mounted in that race by a Democrat," she said.