**1. Overall 2013 was a tough year for everyone in Congress, especially considering public perception. But now that you've had about a year in office since being elected, how would you characterize your 2013?**

Unfortunately, Washington today is paralyzed by politics and has been reduced to sound bites. This year Congressional approval dropped to an all-time low. It’s clear, Nevadans do not want finger pointing, they are sick of political talking points, and they are fed up with hollow promises. What they want is bipartisanship and collaboration.

**2. With issues like veterans affairs, housing and, of course, mining being huge in the area, what things can people expect from you to push in 2014?**

I will continue to push any legislation that will get Nevadans back to a time of prosperity and opportunity. In these difficult times it is more important than ever that we work together, find common ground, and make tough decisions to create jobs, get people back to work, and keep them in their homes. Helping Nevadans during these tough economic times is front and center on my mind.

**3. What are your goals in 2014 in terms of legislation you'd like to see happen?**

Every day I go to work to advocate for our great state and let Nevadans know there is someone in Washington who is on their side. There is not a day that goes by that I do not think about what can be done to create jobs in Nevada. In 2014 I would like to see legislation that will help turn our anemic economy around, gets Nevadans back on their feet, and provides greater certainty for generations to come.

**4. What do you feel your biggest accomplishment of 2013 was? By the same token, do you have a biggest disappointment from the year?**

Since joining the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee in the 113th Congress, I have been vocal about the need to reduce the backlog in benefits claims. Fortunately, a couple months ago I was notified that 100 percent of all disability claims over two years old in Nevada have been eliminated from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) backlog. Our veterans have waited too long for these decisions, and I appreciate the focus that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have placed on bringing down the backlog numbers.

Perhaps the biggest disappointments this year have been Congress’ failure to pass a budget and all appropriation bills on time and doing nothing to address any of the major fiscal issues facing our country. Missed deadline after missed deadline have been the staple of this Congress.

**5. You have a large amount of support here. What are some legislation that you took part in that people may not know about that may positively affect the area?**

There is a lot of legislation that I work on every day to help promote innovation and job growth. When I evaluate legislation I apply what I call the more, higher, or less test. Does this bill provide more services, at a higher quality, for less cost? If the federal government approached problems through an entrepreneurial perspective, we could have a more efficient government at less costs to the taxpayer.

**6. What sort of feedback have you gotten from people in White Pine County? Does your office receive phone calls, letters, emails ,etc.?**

From all corners of the state the message is clear; the status quo is not working for Nevada. We lead the nation in unemployment, foreclosures, and bankruptcies. While the recent unemployment numbers are showing a spark of recovery, we still have a long way to go to get Nevadans back to work.

**7. The public seemed, as a whole, fed up with Congress in 2013. What can everyone do to change that?**

Work together for the good of the American people. The “do nothing” status quo in Washington must be done away with. Missed deadline after missed deadline have been the staple of this Congress. One thing I am sure we can all agree is that Congress can’t continue kicking the can down the road threatening the fiscal sustainability of future generations. If nothing changes, either our nation’s ever-increasing debt or rampant inflation will crush our economy. We have to end this cycle of inaction and indecisiveness.