Job News Promising But Not Enough

Rep. Stupak tours an affordable housing project of the Northern Homes Community Development Corporation.

Greeting the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announcement that 308,000 new jobs were created nation wide during March 2004 as a good sign, Representative Bart Stupak cautioned, "We have a long way to go to bring this good news to the 8.4 million Americans who are currently unemployed...more than 330,000 in Michigan."

The most recent job figures for Michigan show unemployment statewide at 7.3%, and in the Upper Peninsula at 8.5%. In the 1st District, 16 of 31 counties exceed a 10% jobless rate. Since 2001, 133,300 Michigan manufacturing jobs have been lost, and 48,500 Michiganders have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

The report also revealed that the March national unemployment rate increased to 5.7% and long term unemployment increased by 117,000. It also disclosed that no new manufacturing jobs were created last month with manufacturing employment remaining at a 53-year low. The report included 72,000 striking workers returning to their jobs after the settlement. This is not job creation.

Since January 2001, an average of 109,000 new private sector jobs have been created per month, far less than the number needed to keep pace with new entrants to the workforce. At that rate, it will take more than two years to recover all the jobs lost since the beginning of 2001.

Resources for businesses:

Trade Advocacy Center. The Advocacy Center's mission is to coordinate U.S. Government resources and authority in order to level the playing field on behalf of U.S. business interests as they compete against foreign firms for specific international contracts or other U.S. export opportunities. In doing so, the Advocacy Center helps create and retain U.S. jobs through exports. **http://export.gov/advocacy/**

U.S. Department of Commerce

Post your company profile for automatic matchmaking:

- Search for and email qualified international buyers
- Receive email notices of new trade lead opportunities
- Submit and respond to offers to sell your product
- Track trade leads and matches in your "MyBuyUSA" **www.BuyUSA.com**

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a nationwide network of not-for-profit centers in over 400 locations, whose sole purpose is to provide small and medium sized manufacturers with the help they need to succeed. The centers, in all 50 States and Puerto Rico, are linked together through the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. Centers are funded by federal, state, local and private resources to serve manufacturers. That makes it possible for even the smallest firms to tap into the expertise of knowledgeable manufacturing and business specialists all over the United States. These specialists are people who have had experience on manufacturing floors and in plant operations. **www.mep.nist.gov**

International Trade Administration www.ita.doc.gov

Small Business Administration in Michigan ww.sbs.gov/mi

House Highway Bill Shortchanges Michigan

Washington – On Friday, April 2nd, the U.S. House passed the new six-year highway bill, titled TEA-LU, that authorizes $14 million for new road and highway project in Michigan's 1st Congressional District. However, the $275 billion appropriation fails to ensure that Michigan receives its fair share of federal transportation funding.

Under the current formula set down in TEA-21, Michigan receives 90.5 cents for every dollar Michigan taxpayers pay into the federal highway and transit trust fund. The Senate version of the bill, which passed 76-21 and is supported by Congressman Bart Stupak, would have provided $318 billion and increased Michigan's rate of return to 95 cents on the dollar by 2009.

The additional funding would also create nearly 1.8 million badly needed new jobs without adding to the deficit. For every $1 billion invested in road construction, 47,500 new jobs and $6.2 billion in economic activity would be created.

U.S. Department of Transportation projections estimate the creation of 54,103 new jobs for Michigan workers. According to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the bill that passed the House could actually result in the loss of more than 90,000 jobs nation wide.

The bills now go to a Senate-House conference for resolution.

Rep. Stupak delivers a Congressional tribute to Boyne City Chamber of Commerce leaders honoring their "Main Street" designation.

Stupak Supports Job Creation and Retention Legislation

Several bills co-sponsored by Congressman Bart Stupak in the U.S. House of Representatives would help to stem the outsourcing of jobs to other countries like India and China and would give incentives to corporations that keep and create jobs in America.

The bills will revitalize our manufacturing base by lowering tax rates on all domestic producers. Companies with 100 percent domestic production would see their tax rate cut by 3.5 percent. The bill rewards companies for manufacturing goods in the U.S. by linking the tax cut with the amount of goods produced in the U.S. This would encourage job creation and prevent the outsourcing of jobs overseas.

The legislation will help U.S. manufacturers develop new technologies and help workers gain 21st century skills for the global economy. It will fully fund the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which helps small U.S. manufacturers with everything from plant modernization to employee training. In addition, we support upgrading job training for a high-skilled workforce, and enforcing trade laws to make sure that our manufacturers are not at a competitive disadvantage.

Lastly, the legislation will implement true tax reform that prevents companies from profiting from U.S. layoffs. Under the current tax system, many major multi-national companies admit they lower their taxes "by investing more capital overseas" to earn a credit against their U.S. taxes, which this legislation would end.

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