



## MEDIA KIT

### **Rep. Todd Tiahrt Media Contact**

If you are a member of the news media and have questions about the Economic Competitiveness Caucus, please contact Courtney English at 202.225.6216.

### **EC2**

America has always been a land of innovative entrepreneurs, hard working laborers, dedicated professionals and the most productive industries.

Today, our regulatory, judicial and tax environments are impeding businesses from prospering here. Sending jobs overseas is not simply a result of lower wages, and it is time we recognized that fact.

Recognizing this reality, Representative Tiahrt began working with House Leadership in late 2003 to unveil a competitiveness initiative that would focus on specific areas where the federal government could remove barriers to economic competitiveness for U.S. businesses.

The competitiveness initiative addresses eight areas in which U.S. businesses currently face obstacles in productivity and competition abroad. By passing legislation within these eight areas, Congress and the federal government can take steps to restore our nation's competitiveness and ensure that the United States remains the land of opportunity.

From this initiative, Todd founded and is Chairman of the House Economic Competitiveness Caucus (EC2). EC2 seeks to help create a long-term favorable environment in which U.S. businesses will hire U.S. workers.

EC2 carefully examines issues facing America's ability to compete economically both now and in future years. It works to focus congressional efforts on removing the barriers to American economic competitiveness; develops economic goals for the future; and finds the paths to get there.

The Goal: More high-quality, high-paying jobs for today and future generations.

House Leaders have also tapped Todd to lead the competitiveness effort by naming him Co-Chairman of the Jobs Action Team. This group of thirty Members promotes legislation that keeps our economy moving forward and spurs economic growth and recovery. The Team has made significant progress in their ongoing focus on making America a more attractive place to do business. Thus far, the House has passed over 60 pieces of legislation to change the environment and bring jobs back to America.

## **Mission Statement**

To focus Congressional efforts on uncovering and removing the barriers to American economic competitiveness. To deepen understanding of the underlying problems inhibiting economic growth. To determine the risks of current policies that keep us uncompetitive in a competitive world. To develop economic goals for the future and find the paths to get there.

## **Goals**

More high quality, high paying jobs for all Americans today and into the future. A vibrant, internationally competitive American economy now, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years down the road.

## **Background**

For almost two centuries the United States' economy has been the envy of the world. With its dynamic economy and hardworking, motivated workforce, America is truly the land of opportunity where innovation has thrived. That status is changing, however. Our nation is running a \$726 billion annual trade deficit (2005) that is contributing to our budget deficit and has slowed the economy over the past few years.

This development is not a temporary blip on the radar screen. It is the culmination of a generation of increased regulation, unsound tax policies, languishing emphasis on math and science education, unchecked healthcare costs, rampant lawsuit abuse, unfocused research and development funds, and weak trade policy enforcement.

In short, our government has made it difficult and less desirable to do business in the United States. Over the past generation, our government has put up roadblocks to keeping and creating jobs in America. If these current trends continue, our economy will continue to lag and we will no longer remain the most dynamic economy in the world.

Meanwhile, China, India and other nations are preparing for the future. They are educating their students in math, science, and technology and pumping out record numbers of engineers. They are reducing tax rates and other economic barriers to entice investment in their nations. These countries are pursuing aggressive trade policies to reduce America's economic dominance in world trade.

Without attention to these matters, the United States is headed towards a third-rate economy. Twenty years from now, we may no longer be the world's leader.

Congress needs to take a long-term vision approach. For this reason, Congressman Tiahrt founded and is Chairman of the House Economic Competitiveness Caucus (EC2).

EC2 carefully examines ways Congress can uncover and help remove barriers to American economic competitiveness in the global market. The Caucus provides deepened understanding of underlying problems inhibiting economic growth and focuses on long-term risks within current policies that make American businesses less competitive.

EC2 wants to help ensure the American economy is vibrant and internationally competitive now and over the next several decades.

## **Eight Steps to Competitiveness**

### *Health Care Security*

Skyrocketing health care costs are killing jobs. Employers want to provide health care insurance to their workers. We must stabilize health care costs so all employers are able to afford this crucial benefit.

### *Bureaucratic Red Tape Termination*

The federal government has become a creeping ivy of regulations that strangle enterprise. The total burden of environmental, economic, workplace and tax compliance on the economy is in the order of \$850 billion.

### *Lifelong Learning*

Job training and retraining are necessary to keep up in today's environment. Our children must learn the fundamentals, become familiar with technology, and be exposed to enhanced math and science curriculums to be able to compete in a global economy. We must help our colleges and universities produce graduates who enter science and engineering careers.

### *Energy Self-Sufficiency and Science*

Businesses cannot grow without reliable, cost efficient sources of energy. We have a plan that will not only stabilize our energy systems but also create over 800,000 jobs and strengthen our businesses.

### *Innovation and Investment*

Technology is the engine of growth, yet America does not have a comprehensive federal plan to encourage research and development. Incentives for applying knowledge into the market place and for the deployment of technology such as broadband are critical. We also need to remove the barriers to investment in the United States for domestic and foreign employers.

### *Trade Fairness*

Protecting American exports should be foremost in any trade agreements and policy Congress reviews and considers. The ultimate goal should be to put American businesses at the top of the global supply chain, which benefits small businesses and creates jobs.

### *Tax Relief and Simplification*

Our tax structure puts American businesses at a disadvantage in the world market. We must simplify and eliminate the punitive nature of our current tax code. Incentives such as bonus depreciation encourage investment, moves production lines and increases revenues.

### *Ending Lawsuit Abuse and Litigation Management*

We need to return integrity to our legal system by curtailing frivolous lawsuits and returning the court's attention to upholding the laws of the land rather than legislating from the bench.