



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



April 2, 2004

Hot News!

Minnesota Struggles in Bad Bush Economy— No Relief for Minnesota Unemployment in March

This morning, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that 308,000 new jobs were created nation wide during the month of March. The end of the supermarket strike in California contributed 47,000 jobs to the figure and warmer temperatures helped push construction employment up by 71,000 following a decline in previous months.

"After 3 years of painful job losses, this month's growth is welcome news, but it's only a small step forward," said McCollum. "Today, 137,198 people are looking for work in Minnesota. This has been the longest stretch without net job growth since the Labor Department started keeping track over 60 years ago."

- The unemployment rate in Minnesota jumped from 3.3% in January 2001 to 4.7% in February 2004.
- In Minnesota, 38,000 jobs have been lost since January 2001 and 2,000 jobs were lost in February alone.
- Nation wide, unemployment actually *increased* during the month of March, up to 5.7%.
- The average length of unemployment is at the highest in 20 years.

Under the Bush Administration, approximately 2.6 million private sector jobs have been lost, including 38,000 private sector jobs and 49,800 manufacturing jobs in Minnesota. Despite these figures, the Administration has repeatedly failed to extend unemployment benefits for the millions of unemployed Americans.

"We need sustained job growth to undo the last three years of decline under the Bush economic plan," said McCollum. "We need immediate action to create jobs here at home."

McCollum Meets with Minnesota Officials From Kodak



Mr. Joe Proegler and Mr. Michael Marsh of Kodak met this week with Congresswoman McCollum to discuss the company's medical imaging division. The division employs over 400 people in Oakdale, Minnesota.

Republicans Oppose Budget Balancing Measure

This week, Republicans held a five-minute vote open for 28 minutes in order to pressure their Republican colleagues to defeat a Democratic budget balancing measure, which failed 209-209. The provision would have enacted "pay-as-you-go" rules to reduce the budget deficit by requiring spending increases and tax cuts to be offset by other cuts in the budget.

Pay-as-you-go was highly successful at turning deficits into record surpluses during the Clinton Administration.

"Democrats included the pay-as-you-go provisions in our budget, which protected Social Security, Medicare, and veterans' benefits," said McCollum. "Instead, for the fourth time in four years, the Republicans passed a fiscally-irresponsible budget that will create record deficits but will not create jobs. The American people expect and deserve better."

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