

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) today hosted a manufacturing roundtable in Auburn, NY to hear from local manufacturers, business organizations and labor leaders about the challenges facing domestic manufacturers and discuss proactive solutions.

“Today’s world shows us economic uncertainty can strike at any time, so we must do everything possible to protect local workers and help area companies create additional good paying manufacturing jobs,” **Arcuri said**. “Manufacturing jobs have been the backbone of the Upstate economy for generations, but to protect local workers we must rise to new challenges. I have fought unfair trade deals that ship our jobs overseas and worked side-by-side with local workers. Today, I learned not only about the challenges facing the manufacturing sector, but also the success stories that we can build on for the future.”

Representatives from over 12 local manufacturing companies, business organizations and labor groups joined Arcuri to discuss issues facing local manufacturers, and identify solutions to improve the economic climate, and retain and create manufacturing jobs in Upstate New York. Topics discussed included: trade, health care, energy, climate change and taxes.

“From Utica to Auburn, I have seen first-hand the devastating effects unbalanced trade can have on the economy – job loss and struggling families,” **said Arcuri**. “Since 2001, our country has lost over three million manufacturing jobs - over 200,000 in New York alone - but I refuse to accept that this is ‘inevitable.’ I am committed to leveling the playing field for local businesses, empowering American workers, and building the economy here at home.”

Since taking office, Arcuri has worked with the local manufacturing sector to support legislation in Congress that helps local workers and protects area companies faced with unfair trade deals. Last year, Arcuri voted against the U.S. – Peru Trade Promotion Agreement in an effort to stem the tide of local job loss to foreign nations.

Arcuri testified before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade in support of legislation to address China’s unbalanced trade practices and currency manipulation, which negatively effect local manufacturing companies. Arcuri also testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) regarding the importance of enforcing and strengthening U.S. trade laws to alleviate the adverse impact of foreign trade practices on domestic industries

and workers.

To help area workers faced with job loss, Arcuri supported bipartisan legislation which passed the House of Representatives, to overhaul the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program - improving health care benefits and strengthening job training to ensure displaced workers have the tools they need to succeed in today's rapidly changing global economy.

The Trade and Globalization Assistance Act (H.R. 3920) would extend the Trade TAA job training and health care tax credits to service workers who lose their jobs due to global trade. Since 1974, employees of businesses in the 24th district applied for Trade Adjustment Assistance 227 times – more than one application every two months.

Below is a list of attendees at Arcuri's manufacturing roundtable:

Randy Wolken, President, Manufacturers Association of Central New York
Mike Keller, General Manager, Nucor Steel Auburn
Mark Smith, Plant Manager, Owens-Illinois
Terri Bridenbecker, Executive Director, Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce
Rich Savage, Director of Operations, McQuay International
Scott O'Neal, Plant Manager, TRW Automotive (EnTire Solutions)
John Currier, President, Currier Plastics, Inc.
Mark Mette, Plant Manager, Guardian Industries
Edward Gallagher, Hammond & Irving, Inc.
Michael Stumo, General Counsel, Coalition for a Prosperous America
Debra Waggoner, Director, Global Government Affairs, Corning Incorporated
Representatives from the NYS AFL-CIO

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