

I am committed to promoting economic growth in the 24th district, helping middle class families and small businesses get the head start they need to create jobs and opportunity.

Upstate New York has seen job loss in our region for decades and there is no one-step panacea to help ensure good jobs for ourselves and our children. However, I am working to help create an environment that will foster economic development Upstate. We must look to our agricultural resources, amazing educational institutions, alternative energy capability, and the creative and committed workforce we have in the 24th district, all of which are very closely interrelated. By working together as a region, we can harness the power of local communities and federal resources to create jobs and grow our economy right where we need it most.

I have already introduced bipartisan legislation creating a Northern Border Economic Development Commission to bring much-needed job creation and economic development resources to Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida and Herkimer Counties. [Read More](#)

Raising the Minimum Wage

I am proud to serve in a Congress that increased the federal minimum wage for the first time in nearly ten years. The hardworking men and women of our great nation shouldn't be forced to make a decision between buying food or medicine for their children. Raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do because it puts hard-earned wages into the hands of people who need it most.

Raising the minimum wage makes economic sense because the wage increase will pump that added cash right back into the market – exactly the type of economic activity many communities across the country will now benefit from. This is not just the smart thing to do, but more importantly, it is the right thing to do. [Read More](#)

Helping Small Businesses

Small businesses are the back-bone of our economy, providing jobs and services in our communities. I am working in Congress to make sure our local businesses have the tools and resources that they need to grow and expand their businesses and our job base. From helping small businesses access loans, reduce their tax burden, obtain government contracts and keep highly skilled workers right here in Upstate New York, I will continue to work with the business community to do what is best for our local businesses.

As a member of the distinguished House Rules Committee, and an original cosponsor of the Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2007 that would provide \$1.3 billion dollars of tax relief for our nation's small business owners, I helped move this vital piece of legislation through the House of Representatives. The Small Business Tax Relief Act would help small businesses grow and hire new workers by extending and expanding tax provisions that encourage investment in new equipment. [Read More](#)

I also sponsored and introduced the Rule (House Resolution 330) allowing the House to consider H.R. 1332, legislation to provide small business loan support for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, strengthen access to capital programs for small businesses, and encourage private health care providers to establish practices in underserved areas. [Read More](#)

Taxes

To grow our local economy, we have to protect middle-class families and make sure they are not the target of unfair and hidden taxes. I supported a 2008 federal budget that would protect middle-income families from a tax increase by beginning the challenging task of permanently fixing the alternative minimum tax (AMT), which has been left to increase and catch middle class families for too long. In 2004, 437,000 New York families were subject to the AMT. If left unchanged, an estimated 3,194,000 families in New York would be subject to the AMT in 2007. A permanent fix is desperately needed and we cannot ignore this issue any longer.

This fiscally responsible budget would also extend middle class tax relief - including the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, the 10 percent bracket and the deduction for State and local sales taxes. [Read More](#)