

Washington, DC -- U.S Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) met with local small business owners and members of the business community in the Southern Tier today to highlight steps taken in Congress to provide tax relief to local small businesses.

“Small businesses form the backbone of our economy by providing critical jobs and services in our communities,” **said Arcuri**. “I am honored to be part of a Congress that is committed to providing critical tax relief so our small businesses can thrive. Whether eating at a local diner or insuring a home through a local insurance agency – we depend on small businesses everyday.”

House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, who was unable to join Arcuri today due to weather, said, “I am honored to have Mike Arcuri as a colleague and pleased that he represents the people of New York’s 24th district in Washington. He has continually worked with me and the other members of the House leadership to advance a number of legislative initiatives critically important to the small business community – most importantly, much needed tax relief. Mike Arcuri understands that by being a strong advocate in Washington for the people that he represents back home, he can be both a champion for small businesses on the national level and also help to strengthen and grow the economy in Upstate New York.”

Since taking office in January, the House of Representatives has passed, with Arcuri’s strong support, numerous pro-small business measures including \$4.84 billion in tax relief for small business owners, and the Small Business Lending Improvements Act, which provides small businesses with tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation. Arcuri is currently working with colleagues in the House to pass H.R. 2138, which would permanently extend the federal Research and Development tax credit.

“In the coming months I will work with Leader Hoyer and colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass further legislation to help local small businesses and reduce the tax burden on middle class families in Upstate New York,” **said Arcuri**. “As we move forward, I am committed to protecting middle-income families from the alternative minimum tax and extending middle-class tax relief. By helping families keep their hard earned money and small businesses grow and create jobs, we can build and expand the local economy.”

Arcuri was joined by Mr. Andrew Hinkley, owner of Farm Family Insurance Agency in Harpursville, as well as other local small business owners, members of the business

community, and local elected officials.

Legislation to Help Small Businesses Supported by Arcuri and Passed by the House:

- \$4.84 billion in tax relief for small business owners included in the conference report for H.R. 2206. This tax relief measure was endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses.
- H.R. 2829, FY 2008 Financial Services-General Government Appropriations, which contains provisions to spur job creation and economic growth, including restoring cuts previously made to small business loans and investing in more efforts to expand availability to capital and financial services in rural communities.
- H.R. 3093, FY 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations, which makes major investments in U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness. As a member of the House Rules Committee, Arcuri managed the debate on the House floor in support of consideration of H.R. 3093, which includes \$108.7 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program that helps small- and mid-size manufacturers compete globally by providing them with technical advice and access to the latest technology.

Earlier this year, Arcuri, a member of the powerful House Rules Committee, guided the Small Business Lending Improvements Act (H.R. 1332) through the House. H.R. 1332 would strengthen access to capital programs for small businesses, encourage private health care providers to establish practices in underserved areas, and provide small business loan support for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In addition, Arcuri utilized his position on the Rules Committee to shepherd the Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2007 (H.R. 976) through the House, which provides \$1.3 billion in tax relief for small businesses.

###