

Washington, DC -- Today, the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition recognized New York Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) for his commitment to America’s small business owners by naming him “Blue Dog of the Week.” Recently, due in part to Arcuri’s efforts, bipartisan legislation that includes \$1.3 billion in tax cuts for small businesses passed the House of Representatives.

“Last month, I was honored to help shepherd legislation through the U.S House of Representatives to allow for \$1.3 billion in tax relief for small businesses for our nation’s small business owners,” said Arcuri. “Small businesses are the back bone of our economy, providing jobs and services in our communities. I believe it is Congress’ duty to restore fiscal responsibility to the federal government - by working together we can create a climate where small businesses can thrive and middle-class families have the resources they need to send their kids to college and enjoy a secure retirement.”

“The people of New York’s 24th district should be proud of Rep. Arcuri’s willingness to work in a bipartisan fashion to pass legislation that directly benefits New York’s small business owners,” said Rep. Mike Ross, Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. “Small businesses are the economic drivers of our economy, and after serving his constituents for just two and a half months, Rep. Arcuri has already demonstrated his willingness to work across party lines as a Blue Dog to ensure that our small businesses remain competitive.”

Due to the efforts of Rep. Arcuri and his Blue Dog colleagues, the House rules package for the 110th Congress was passed in the first 24 hours of the new session and requires pay-as-you-go budget discipline, known as “PAYGO,” with no new deficit spending. This rule was in place when the nation had its first balanced budget in nearly 30 years from 1998 to 2001. The rules package also requires full transparency by ending the abuse of special interest earmarks.

“The hard-working families of New York’s 24th district know what it is to balance a budget, they balance one every month. It is long past time for the government to do the same,” said Arcuri. “Fiscal responsibility and economic development go hand in hand. We have to create conditions to help small business and family farms expand and drive our economic growth.”

The Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the

House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 43 members of the Blue Dog Coalition.

Rep. Arcuri is currently featured on the Blue Dog Coalition website, located at <http://www.house.gov/ross/BlueDogs/>

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