

Throughout his time in office, Congressman Altmire has worked with local entrepreneurs to create and keep good paying jobs in western Pennsylvania. As our economy weathered its most severe recession in more than 70 years, Congressman Altmire took action to cut taxes, expand businesses' access to capital, and promote projects that will create jobs and strengthen our economy over the long term. As we move forward, Congressman Altmire will continue working to revitalize our economy and expand opportunities for businesses in western Pennsylvania and across the nation.

### **Extending Key Tax Cuts for All Americans**

In December 2010, Congressman Altmire voted to extend all of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for the next two years to help keep our nation's economic recovery moving forward. By extending current tax rates, Congress helped provide Americans with the certainty they need to make long-term investments and spur job growth. For more information, see: [ [Altmire Votes to Extend Tax Cuts for All Americans](#) ].

### **Supporting Long-Term Transportation Authorization**

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Congressman Altmire understands the importance of improving our nation's transportation system in order to meet America's trade and travel needs. Congressman Altmire continues to advocate for the improvement of passenger rail service, public transit and repairing our region's crumbling roads and bridges. Short-term spending does not offer the same job-creating benefits as a full reauthorization, and will not do enough to fix America's roads and bridges. A comprehensive long-term surface transportation authorization policy can greatly benefit our economy and get Americans back to work.

### **Working to Bring Employers and Job Seekers Together**

In October 2011, Congressman Altmire hosted a jobs fair at the Community College of Beaver County. The event brought together the region's top job providers and over 500 job seekers

from across western Pennsylvania. The fair included workshops on how social media is changing the job search, resume writing, interview skills, tips for switching careers. Congressman Altmire remains dedicated to finding ways to get Americans back to work and continues to work with small businesses looking to hire new workers.

### **Co-founder of the Privately Held and Family Owned Business Caucus**

Congressman Altmire joined Congressman Peter Roskam (IL-06) in founding the Privately-Held and Family-Owned Business Caucus. This valuable resource will keep Members of Congress informed and in a dialogue with businesses in western Pennsylvania and across the country on the issues that affect them. Privately-held and family-owned businesses rely on private capital rather than shareholders to finance their business ventures. The Caucus will help address the unique challenges these businesses face. Read more: [ [Altmire Forms Privately-Held and Family-Owned Business Caucus](#) ]

### **Encouraging the Growth of the Life Sciences and the Biotechnology Industry**

In July, Congressman Altmire introduced the Life Sciences and Investment Act with a bipartisan group of lawmakers. The bill promotes investment in the life sciences by providing targeted and temporary tax relief for businesses that are willing to expand their US-based workforce. By incentivizing companies with a tax credit exclusively for job creation and research in the US, we can help the small and medium-sized companies that have struggled to expand their operations and hire new workers due to intense global competition and a lack of available investment capital. Western Pennsylvania is home to a growing number of life science and biotechnology companies that would stand to benefit a great deal from this legislation. For more information on the Life Sciences and Investment Act, [click here](#).

### **Working to Improve Small Businesses' Access to Capital**

To foster economic development throughout our region, we have to make it easier for local entrepreneurs to attract much-needed start up capital. Congressman Altmire introduced a bill designed to help businesses secure venture capital funding so that they can research and develop innovative products and technologies. On July 9, 2010, the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act (H.R. 2965) passed the House of Representatives by a strong

bipartisan vote of 386-41. For more information, see: [ [Altmire Bill Expanding Small Businesses' Access to Capital Passes the House](#) ].

### **Closing Corporate Tax Loopholes that Send Jobs Overseas**

To save and create jobs here at home, Congressman Altmire voted for the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act. This law created a payroll tax holiday for businesses that hire unemployed workers and a \$1000 tax credit for businesses that retain new employees for at least a year. The HIRE Act is fiscally responsible and does not add one dollar to our national debt because it cracks down on tax loopholes that ship American jobs overseas.

### **Investing in Western Pennsylvania's Future**

Over the last four years, Congressman Altmire has brought federal funding to his district to support key economic development initiatives. The funding Congressman Altmire secured is helping to make important infrastructure improvements to the Ohio River's locks and dams, upgrade our local highways and mass transit systems, provide support for emergency first responders, and improve our region's community hospitals.

### **Developing the Tech Belt**

In today's global economy, western Pennsylvania companies are competing with firms located across the country and around the world. To enhance our region's competitive edge, Congressman Altmire joined with U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) to help launch the Tech Belt Coalition. This initiative brings together Members of Congress throughout the Tech Belt corridor to promote collaborations between businesses, research institutions, and nonprofits throughout the Pittsburgh – Youngstown – Akron – Cleveland corridor to facilitate job creation and economic growth. In recent years, cross-border collaborations between local companies have helped the Tech Belt region achieve a soaring rate of growth in venture capital investment, rising from \$146 million in 2005 to more than \$958.3 million from 2007 to 2010.

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