

(New Castle, PA) — U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-4) today spoke to the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce about how he is working to improve opportunities for local businesses and expand the region's economy. Last year, Congressman Altmire secured over \$1.6 million in the federal budget for Lawrence County initiatives to improve local Head Start programs; make safety upgrades to the I-376 corridor; develop Millennium Park, a future commercial site in Neshannock Township; and upgrade the emergency department at Jameson Hospital in New Castle.

“Since coming to Congress, I have worked closely with local business and community leaders to help create new economic opportunities in western Pennsylvania,” Altmire said. **“Last year, I was pleased that I could secure more than \$1.6 million for initiatives that will make Lawrence County an even better place to live and raise a family. I will take the insights I heard today from the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce to continue fighting for policies that will strengthen our local economy and help local businesses.”**

To help small businesses continue growing despite today's sluggish economy, Congressman Altmire voted for the recently-enacted economic stimulus package, which doubles the amount small businesses can immediately write off on their taxes for capital investments made in 2008 from \$125,000 to \$250,000. This provision will make it easier for businesses to buy equipment and expand their operations. In 2007, Congressman Altmire also worked to boost the economy by supporting \$4.8 billion in tax cuts for small businesses.