

May 20, 2009

(Washington, D.C.) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) brought a small business entrepreneur from Zelenople, PA to Capital Hill today to testify about his experience running a small company in western Pennsylvania. Kirk Farra -- the President of In-Synch Systems -- was one of several small business entrepreneurs from around the country who were honored as "Small Business Heroes" at the House Small Business Committee's hearing in Washington, D.C. The hearing was held as part of National Small Business Week and was meant to honor small business owners for their contributions to our nation's economy.

"The strength of western Pennsylvania's economy has always been tied to the strength of our small businesses," Altmire said. "All across our region, entrepreneurs like Kirk Farra are providing western Pennsylvanians with good paying jobs and helping to support economic growth. I want to thank Kirk for coming to Washington, D.C. today to share his story and help us learn what we can do to help America's small businesses grow in the future."

In-Synch Systems is a rare example of a company that is in the process of expanding despite the current economic downturn. In the next month, In-Synch Systems-- which produces records management software for small law enforcement agencies -- expects to hire four new people in good-paying software development and sales jobs. In-Synch Systems is also poised to benefit from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act because this economic recovery package increased funding for the federal grants that help law enforcement agencies purchase their technology.

"I want to thank Congressman Altmire for inviting me to Capital Hill today so that I could talk to the House Small Business Committee about my experience running a small business in western Pennsylvania," Farra said. "Like many small businesses across our region, we work day in and day out to improve our company. I appreciate having the opportunity to share our story and tell Members of Congress what they can do to help entrepreneurs like myself succeed."

As Chairman of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, Congressman Altmire has made it point to ensure that the voices of western Pennsylvania's small business owners are heard in Congress. After being approached by a small business owner in the North Hills who was concerned that a new product safety law could put her out of business, Altmire held a hearing in D.C. to investigate how to improve the law. After hearing about the struggles western Pennsylvania veterans face when trying to run a small business, Altmire wrote legislation -- which is now law -- that strengthens support for veteran entrepreneurs.