

October 31, 2003

Congressman Todd Akin Leads Congressional Delegation to Iraq, Kuwait and Germany

WASHINGTON- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), a member of the House Armed Service Committee, is leading a bipartisan congressional delegation (CODEL) currently traveling in Iraq to survey the development of infrastructure.

Congressman Akin, who also chairs the House Small Business Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs intends for the CODEL to see as much of Iraq as possible during its stay.

"The purpose of the trip is to provide members of Congress with as much firsthand knowledge of our efforts in Iraq as security concerns allow," Akin said. "I intend to also meet with our military leaders, personnel involved in strengthening Iraq's infrastructure and Iraqi nationals as well as U.S. service personnel who continue to make great personal sacrifices while serving our country abroad."

The delegation is comprised of six members of the U.S. House Small Business Committee, which will review the role American small businesses are playing in the reconstruction as well as meeting with Iraq Chief Administer Ambassador Paul Bremer, U.S. servicemen and Iraqi interim government leaders.

The delegation will travel to Germany where it will meet with German and American business officials, as well as high ranking U.S. military personnel and representatives of the German government.

In addition to Akin, the CODEL includes the following Members of Congress: Steve Pearce (R-2 NM); Jeb Bradley (R-1 NH); Thaddeus McCotter (R-11 MI); Brad Miller (D-NC); and Ed Case (D-2 HI).

Missouri media organizations interested in news coverage of the delegation in-country should contact Steve Taylor at (314) 590-0029.