

April 28, 2003

Akin Holds U.S. House of Representatives Field Hearing in St. Peters
Hulshof joins hearing focusing on the state of small business manufacturing in the Midwest

St. Peters- Today, Congressman Todd Akin (R-Mo), chairman of the House of Representatives' Small Business Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs, will hold a **field hearing of the subcommittee at 1:00 p.m. at St. Peters City Hall, St. Peters Missouri.** The hearing will focus on the state of small business manufacturing in the Midwest. Congressman Hulshof will be joining the field hearing. The subcommittee will receive testimony from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, the Missouri Merchants and Manufactures Association and several small business owners.

"While our nation is facing some real economic challenges it is important to recognize that small business is a major portion of the national economy," **stated Akin.** "Manufacturing accounts for 16 percent of our nation's economic output and 30 percent of our national economic growth. It is vital to ensure that Missouri and the entire Midwestern United States have a strong and growing manufacturing base."

"As the largest employer association in Missouri, we appreciate the work of Congressman Akin to advocate positive change for the most important economic engine in our nation--small business," **said Danial P. Mehan, President of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.** "While you hear from employers across the country that times are tough, no where is this cry for action as loud as in Missouri. Losing more than 77,700 jobs last year, Missouri leads the nation in job loss according to a report recently released by the U.S. Department of Labor. Now, more than ever, we need to make a commitment to advance pro-jobs policy."

"The Missouri Chamber of Commerce has reported that in 2002, Missouri led the nation in job losses. That's unacceptable," **said Congressman Kenny Hulshof (R-Mo).** "This event provides an opportunity to hear how to address this problem from those who create jobs and economic growth in our state. To prevent another year of major job loss here, elected officials at both the state and local level must aggressively push for a meaningful economic growth package that will help current enterprises and encourage new ventures to locate in Missouri. After all, people want a paycheck, not an unemployment check. Getting an economic growth package to the President for signature will be a top priority when Congress reconvenes this week."