

(February 16, 2005) Lipinski Stands Up for Small Businesses Facing Budget Cuts

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WASHINGTON, DC - Responding to the Bush Administration's proposed budget, Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3rd) expressed his support for small businesses hurt by drastic program cuts.

"I understand the need for fiscal discipline during this time of budget deficits," Lipinski said, "however, these cuts fall disproportionately on the back of our small business owners and their employees."

Small businesses represent over 99 percent of all U.S. employers, and employ over half of the private work force. "After our nation's small businesses have weathered a recession, we should be supporting them, not gutting the programs designed to help them," Rep. Lipinski said.

The administration's FY06 budget proposal makes dramatic cuts to important small business programs across many government agencies, with some programs being completely terminated. The Small Business Administration is one of the hardest-hit agencies in the entire federal government, with cuts or termination of nine of the top 25 SBA programs.

Congressman Lipinski pledged to fight for essential program funds. "Small businesses are the foundation of our economy," he said. "I want to see our government stand behind programs that foster entrepreneurship, help small firms to find accessible and affordable capital, and keep our small business economy strong and vibrant in the increasingly competitive global economy. The administration's proposed cuts are not acceptable, and I will work to restore the funding needed to support small businesses."

Lipinski serves on the House Committee on Small Business, where he is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs.