

Congressman Travis Childers Discusses Impact of Recovery Act on North Mississippi Jobs and Infrastructure

Washington, DC – Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) discussed the positive impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on North Mississippi jobs and infrastructure today in Monroe and Lafayette Counties. The Congressman toured the Hamilton Tronox facility this morning to talk with employees about how the Recovery Act will create and save jobs. This afternoon, he met with city and county leaders in Oxford, including Mayor Richard Howorth, to discuss infrastructure projects that are eligible for funding under the Recovery Act.

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Congressman Tours Hamilton Tronox Facility, Discusses Infrastructure Projects with Local Leaders in Oxford

February 20, 2009

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"Hard working North Mississippians are struggling to keep their jobs while businesses are fighting to stay afloat under difficult economic conditions," said Congressman Childers. "The Recovery Act will help facilities like Tronox's Hamilton plant through tax incentives and other benefits, and will create thousands of jobs in the First District. Additionally, the legislation's significant investments in infrastructure projects will put people back to work quickly, help update critical infrastructure, and provide new business for North Mississippi suppliers and other industries."

Hamilton's Tronox facility, which produces titanium dioxide, is one of Mississippi's largest industrial operations and has approximately 435 employees. The company spent \$40 million on Mississippi goods and services in 2007. The facility is eligible receive significant funding through the Recovery Act's Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, which reimburses companies that participate in cleanup activities for hazardous chemicals purchased by the government.

Since the beginning of the current recession in December 2007, the country has lost 3.6 million jobs. Mississippi's unemployment rate reached 8.0 percent in December 2008. There are currently 22 counties in Mississippi with double digit unemployment rates. Ten of these counties are located in the First District, which is now close to holding the highest jobless rate in the state.

The Recovery Act will create and save 3.5 million jobs nationwide, and is estimated to directly impact 30,000 jobs throughout Mississippi, including nearly 9,000 jobs in the First District.

The Recovery Act also makes significant investments in infrastructure, providing \$27.5 billion to modernize roads and bridges, \$19 billion for upgrading and maintaining water systems, and \$8.4 billion for transit projects. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) will receive \$415.3 million in infrastructure investments from the Recovery Act. Of this amount, \$354.6 million will go towards roads and bridges.

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