

Murphy Visits Meriden Manufacturer to Talk Buy American Legislation to Protect and Grow Connecticut's Manufacturing Sector

Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) visited Di-EI Tool in Meriden to see the factory, meet the employees, and discuss his legislation to protect and grow Connecticut's manufacturing sector.

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MERIDEN - Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) visited Di-EI Tool in Meriden to see the factory, meet the employees, and discuss his legislation to protect and grow Connecticut's manufacturing sector. Murphy has introduced legislation in Congress, the 21st Century Buy American Act, to require that American taxpayer dollars be spent to buy products from American manufacturers. Di-EI manufactures, among other things, aerospace parts for companies that have contracts with federal agencies, including the Department of Defense.

"Our taxpayer dollars should be spent here, not sent overseas to foreign companies to make goods for our military. Companies like Di-EI, not a manufacturer in China or Germany, should be making parts for our aerospace industry. Di-EI is what this bill is all about," said Murphy.

The federal "Buy American" laws are full of loopholes that allow agencies like the Department of Defense (DoD) to waive requirements to spend tax dollars at home for a variety of reasons. In 2007, the DoD granted 14,159 waivers worth more than \$5.7 billion in taxpayer dollars. In the same year, Connecticut lost over 3,000 manufacturing jobs.

Murphy's bill will:

- Require federal agencies, for the first time, to give a leg-up to bidders for federal contracts that commit to building a large portion of the purchased product here in the United States;
- Provide assistance to American companies who are the sole supplier to the federal government of a particular product to make sure they can stay in business;
- Increase the minimum percentage of a product that must be made in the U.S. from 50% to 60%; and

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Mandate that agencies report, in a public database, what waivers of the domestic sourcing laws they have issued so that American manufacturers have the information necessary to compete for those contracts.

Murphy was joined by Lou Bell, President of Di-EI Tool, and John Harranty, Director of GrowJobsCT.

"We support Congressman Chris Murphy's bill because it supports us, the United States manufacturers, by giving us a better chance to compete for government contracts. If U.S. manufacturers had government contracts we could grow our business and create new high demand manufacturing jobs," said Bell.

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