

Murphy, Blumenthal Release Results of Second Annual Survey of Connecticut Manufacturers

HARTFORD—At the State Capitol today, Congressman Chris Murphy was joined by Senator Richard Blumenthal and Connecticut manufacturers to release the results of the 2012 Survey of Connecticut Manufacturers. In total, 191 Connecticut manufacturers responded to the survey.

The purpose of the survey is to give Connecticut manufacturers the opportunity to provide in-depth perspective and advice to Murphy and Blumenthal about an industry that has sustained Connecticut for three centuries. Murphy and Blumenthal asked manufacturers about ways to create jobs, how to find skilled workers to fill those jobs and then keep those jobs in Connecticut.

The survey showed that 77% said they were confident in the financial future of their company, and 52% expect to see an increase in gross revenues. 56% of the survey participants plan on hiring more workers in the next year, and 58% expect to increase wages.

"We have spent our time in elected office listening to manufacturers in Connecticut about how the federal government can help them grow their businesses," said Murphy. "This report gives us the data we need to make the case for Connecticut manufacturing to policy-makers in Washington and across the country. We will use this information to push for policies that will create jobs in Connecticut and fight against policies that will ship Connecticut manufacturing jobs overseas. Connecticut manufacturers are confident about the future, and we share their optimism. We have a lot of work to do, but these results show that those who say manufacturing in Connecticut is dead are dead wrong."

More than 70% of respondents say they face competition from foreign sources and 45% say that outsourcing has hurt their business. That's why Murphy and Blumenthal are national leaders in the "Buy American" movement that will create jobs in America and especially in Connecticut due to our state's long history of supplying America's armed forces.

Blumenthal said, "This survey shows that Connecticut manufacturers are confident, can-do job creators — most planning to hire new workers and raise pay — but still struggling to find people with the right skills to fill positions. The federal agenda must emphasize skill training and workforce development at our technical high schools and community colleges, so manufacturers can fill present and future openings. A very hopeful sign is that fewer layoffs are foreseen. The survey reinforces the need for tax reform like the Bring Jobs Home Act that will enable manufacturers to grow jobs and reshore them from abroad. Two more priorities supported by the survey: stopping unfair trade like currency manipulation practices by China, and making solid investments in the roads, bridges, railroads, and other public facilities

necessary to move raw materials, parts, and manufactured products.”

The report from the survey is attached to this release and can be found at the following links.

http://chrismurphy.house.gov/images/stories/2012_survey_of_connecticut_manufacturers_report.pdf

<http://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/download/2012-manufacturing-report>