

*Monday, June 29, 2009*

*1:30-3:30pmSUNY*

*New Paltz Campus*

*1 Hawk Drive*

*Lecture Center Room 102*

*New Paltz, NY 12561*

*New Paltz, NY* - In an effort to help stabilize and strengthen Hudson Valley small businesses during the economic recession, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) will host a free public forum on Monday, June 29 for small businesses to learn about the various ways they can receive funding and other support through the federal economic recovery package. Hinchey, who will speak at the event along with various other government and small business leaders, actively supported and voted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which contained various small business provisions. The forum, which Hinchey organized, will take place from 1:30-3:30pm on the SUNY New Paltz campus in Lecture Center Room 102.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and we must do everything we can to support and strengthen them during this very rough economic period," Hinchey said. "I strongly encourage small business owners from throughout the Hudson Valley to come to this free forum and learn about different programs and provisions made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that can help them navigate their way forward through the

current economic situation. Just last week we announced a new interest-free loan program for small businesses. This forum will provide information on that program and many others made possible through the economic recovery bill we passed in Congress earlier this year."

Hinchey will give opening remarks at the forum and will be followed by: Myriam Bouchard of the Small Business Development Center who will discuss various funding opportunities for small businesses; Michael Weber of Governor Paterson's office who will discuss New York state's handling of ARRA funds; Rachel David of the U.S. Department of Labor who will discuss the extension of COBRA health benefits; Richard Torres of the Internal Revenue Service who will highlight tax benefits associated with the ARRA; Liz Kallen of the Rockland Economic Development Corporation who will detail ways for small businesses to increase their revenue and expand their markets during an economic downturn; and Thomas McHale of the New York Business Development Corporation who will highlight various state program designed to support small businesses.