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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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REMARKS TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN KANSAS...JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED.

I'M ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO SEE SOME OF THE GOOD PEOPLE AND GOOD FRIENDS I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH FOR YEARS TO HELP OUT THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA -- MAYOR STEINEGER ... BONNER SPRINGS MAYOR TED STOLFUS ... MAYOR DAN HARBOUR OF EDWARDSVILLE...AND OF COURSE, ALL OF MY FRIENDS HERE AT THE CHAMBER.

I SHARE THEIR DEDICATION TO KANSAS CITY. I ALSO SHARE THEIR BELIEF THAT KANSAS CITY IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. I'LL CONTINUE TO DO ALL I CAN TO ATTRACT MORE BUSINESS, MORE FEDERAL ATTENTION, AND MORE JOBS TO THIS AREA.

CONGRESS IS BACK, BUT NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL

SPEAKING OF JOBS, CONGRESS CERTAINLY HAS A JOB TO DO THIS YEAR. YES, IT IS ANOTHER YEAR, AND ANOTHER SESSION, WITH ANOTHER STATE OF THE UNION JUST AROUND THE CORNER. BUT BEFORE ANYONE STARTS BELIEVING THAT ALL THESE FACTS ADD UP TO "BUSINESS AS USUAL", LET ME TELL YOU HOW DEAD WRONG THAT ASSUMPTION WOULD BE.

THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY ISSUES -- TOO MANY PROBLEMS -- DEMANDING OUR ATTENTION FOR US TO BEGIN THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS WITH A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL ATTITUDE.

WHETHER IT IS THE ECONOMY, HEALTH CARE, DRUGS AND CRIME, TAX RELIEF, AGRICULTURE, OR WHATEVER, THIS CONGRESS HAS ONE SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT: DO SOMETHING, AND DO IT QUICKLY FOR A CHANGE.

LET'S FACE IT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT STAND FOR BUSINESS-AS-USUAL. THEY ARE FED UP, FRUSTRATED AND FRANKLY DISILLUSIONED WITH WHAT WE ARE DOING, OR NOT DOING IN WASHINGTON.

PEOPLE DEMANDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL SIMPLY NOT ACCEPT THE SAME OLD PARTISAN POSTURING, POLITICAL GAMES AND CONGRESSIONAL GRIDLOCK THAT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN FOR TOO LONG NOW.

YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE THESE DAYS WITHOUT HEARING THE PEOPLE, AND HEARING THEM LOUDLY AND CLEARLY -- "DO SOMETHING, AND DO IT QUICKLY FOR A CHANGE," THEY ARE TELLING US.

AND AFTER VISITING EVERY ONE OF OUR STATE'S 105 COUNTIES LAST YEAR, I CAN TELL YOU THAT REVIVING THE ECONOMY AND PROVIDING QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ARE AT THE TOP OF THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA.

FEDERAL DEFICIT, A CRUSHING FORCE

I HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS THAT THE FEDERAL DEFICIT IS "PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE" -- IT'S BEEN A CRUSHING FORCE ON OUR ECONOMY, SADDLING AMERICAN TAXPAYERS WITH AN ANNUAL \$300 BILLION INTEREST PAYMENT JUST TO CARRY OUR NATIONAL DEBT.

WELL, IF THERE IS ONE SOLUTION TO THE DEFICIT CRISIS AMERICA DOESN'T NEED, IT'S TO SPEND OUR WAY OUT OF IT WITH YET ANOTHER AVALANCHE OF TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS, AS SOME ARE SUGGESTING -- ANY MORE FREE-FOR-ALL SPENDING FROM CONGRESS WILL REALLY PUT US ON THE MAT, MAYBE FOR GOOD.

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME RESPONSIBLE APPROACHES BEING CONSIDERED ON CAPITOL HILL AND IN THE WHITE HOUSE, APPROACHES THAT ARE TARGETED, TEMPORARY AND WON'T BUST THE BUDGET.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

WHILE CERTAINLY NOT A CURE ITSELF FOR THE RECESSION, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF IS SOMETHING JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY AGREES ON. WE CAN TARGET TAX BREAKS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS -- PENALTY-FREE IRA WITHDRAWALS, AND A TARGETED TAX CREDIT. IF ENACTED, WE FEEL THESE PROVISIONS COULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF OUR REAL ESTATE MARKET. WE CAN ALSO HELP BUSINESSES WITH INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS, OR SOME COMPARABLE PROGRAM. THE TRUTH IS, INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS HAVE A PROVEN TRACK RECORD AND COULD HELP JUMPSTART THE ECONOMY.

COMPANIES ARE ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE "ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX," AND I KNOW THAT THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO PROPOSE SOME RELIEF FROM THIS BURDEN ON BUSINESSES. THESE ARE INCENTIVES THAT SHOULD HELP CREATE NEW JOBS, AND THAT'S A WINNER IN EVERYBODY'S BOOK.

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