

Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

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Johnson Honored for Manufacturing Leadership *Congresswoman “Exceptionally Effective,” CONNSTEP Says*

NEW BRITAIN, CT – Calling her a “vital voice for manufacturing,” Congresswoman Nancy Johnson was honored today by CONNSTEP for her work to strengthen Connecticut’s manufacturing sector and create jobs.

“On behalf of Connecticut manufacturers I would like to present Congresswoman Nancy Johnson with this Special Merit Award,” said CONNSTEP President Gerry Ward. “Her advocacy of the manufacturing sector has been exceptionally effective. As a leader in Congress, Mrs. Johnson is a vital voice for manufacturing.”

Ward presented Johnson with the Special Merit Award during a meeting today in her New Britain office. CONNSTEP, the Connecticut State Technology Extension Program, is the state’s official resource center for manufacturers.

“Strengthening Connecticut manufacturing and creating and keeping jobs here at home is a top priority for me in Congress,” Johnson said. “Connecticut’s manufacturing sector is turning around and creating jobs, thanks in part to our work to level the playing field for domestic manufacturers. We must continue working to protect American manufacturing by enforcing intellectual property laws and stopping the lawsuit abuse that costs jobs. Manufacturing workers depend on it.”

A panel of manufacturing leaders selected Johnson to receive CONNSTEP’s Special Merit Award for her outstanding support and tireless efforts on behalf of the state’s manufacturing sector, Ward said.

The panel specifically cited her effectiveness and unwavering support of the manufacturing industry and the good jobs that it brings to the state, Ward added.

Leaders from across Connecticut were nominated for the award based on the following criteria: communication of manufacturing issues and concerns, promotion of manufacturing awareness, and encouragement for excellence in manufacturing.

Johnson has worked throughout her career to strengthen Connecticut’s manufacturing sector, making it competitive in a global marketplace so it can grow and create jobs here at home.

Johnson's recent actions to assist manufacturers and workers include:

- **Successfully fought** for and won the most significant tax breaks small manufacturers have ever received so they are better able to compete and create jobs. Domestic manufacturers received over \$80 billion in tax breaks in the American Jobs Creation Act, which President Bush signed into law last October.
- **Convened meeting of Connecticut manufacturers** with the Commerce Secretary in Washington to address challenges to domestic manufacturing.
- **Ensured the input of Connecticut manufacturers** in a national Commerce Department study on the future of manufacturing by convening hearings in Connecticut with Commerce Department officials, including the Undersecretary for International Trade.
- **Urged President Bush to repeal the steel tariff**, which increased steel prices for Connecticut manufacturers. Johnson was the first Member of Congress to testify before the U.S. International Trade Commission fighting against the steel tariff, which was repealed shortly thereafter.
- **Urged Treasury Secretary John Snow to pressure China to unpeg its currency**, which gives Chinese manufacturers an unfair price advantage over Connecticut firms.
- **Successfully fought for increased funding for Connecticut's CONNSTEP program**, which helps small manufacturers increase both productivity and quality and create jobs.

CONNSTEP's mission is to help manufacturers apply advanced technology and management techniques to become more competitive, supporting the growth of Connecticut's economy. CONNSTEP is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and is part of a national network under the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership program.

More information on CONNSTEP can be found at www.connstep.org.

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