

Imagine what rekindling the American Dream looks like for you and your family—it's an optimistic vision of what's possible in the future. It is a vision of opportunity for you, your children, and your grandchildren.

Since first coming to Congress, I've acted aggressively to enact policies that promote this fundamental American value. The value of opportunity and prosperity. Where hard work is rewarded and where all Americans who are willing to work for it are able to achieve the middle class American Dream.

And southern Minnesota is working. Small businesses are hiring again, folks are going back to work, and unemployment is well below the national average.

Despite this, we've certainly felt the harmful effects of the failed economic policies of the past. There are still folks struggling. There are still folks who've lost their job through no fault of their own. And there are still folks working three jobs just to get by.

And while the road to recovery is long and many challenges lie ahead, the good news is that we're up to the task and ready to face those challenges together, head on.

We cannot and must not go back to the same failed economic policies that got us into this mess. We must look forward, to the future, and continue advocating for policies that create jobs and prosperity for all Americans. Below are a few of the measures I'm working on to do just that.

All-American Energy Jobs

A strong economy runs on affordable energy.

Right now, the United States spends more than \$1 billion per day overseas to import foreign oil.

This is unacceptable. Our economic future and national security depend on coming up with a better energy policy, one that takes an all-of-the-above approach to developing our resources here at home.

That is why I led a bipartisan group of my colleagues in writing a plan that does just that.

The basic premise behind my bipartisan energy bill is simple: take the royalties from the expansion of responsible drilling here in America, and reinvest them into clean energy jobs and infrastructure improvements here at home.

Why should we continually send our money overseas to countries that hate us? They will hate us for free. With entrepreneurship and a can-do American spirit, we can increase our energy security and create good-paying, clean energy and construction jobs right here in southern Minnesota. To learn more about my bipartisan energy bill, please [click here](#).

Made in America Manufacturing

Southern Minnesota's working and we are proving that we can make things in America again. And whether it's AGCO in Jackson, Crenlo in Rochester, or Alliant Castings in Winona, small businesses across southern Minnesota are playing a leading role in that effort.

We must enact policies that ensure our local small businesses and manufacturers continue to grow and prosper.

That is why I've [called on House leadership to pass a new farm bill](#) this year and advocated for passage of a long-term transportation bill that will repair our crumbling roads and bridges, connect our local manufacturers with consumers around the country, and give our local small businesses the certainty they need to plan ahead.

The more efficiently small businesses can move their goods to market, the more they can invest in growing their business—and that creates jobs for southern Minnesotans.

Tax Cuts for Middle Class Families

After the worst economic crises since the Great Depression, our economy is beginning to turn the corner and we've seen 24 straight months of private sector job growth.

To continue this recovery we need to ensure that middle class Americans aren't overly burdened by an unfair tax rate. We cannot go back to the same failed policies that got us into this mess. We must continue to advocate for policies that create jobs and prosperity for all Americans, not just the wealthiest among us.

That's why I voted to extend the payroll tax cut for middle class families. This tax cut will put \$1,000 a year back into the pockets of southern Minnesotans. This is money that they can spend at their local grocery store or use to fill their gas tank. It's these types of tax cuts for the middle class that invest real dollars back into our communities and ensure Main Street is thriving.

Moving forward, I will continue fighting for tax reform that promotes opportunity and prosperity for all Americans.

