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Congressman Bishop Travels 8th District On Jobs & Economy Tour

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Throughout the month of August, Congressman Mike Bishop hosted a **Jobs & Economy Tour** across Oakland, Livingston, and Ingham Counties – to learn about the ways local businesses are making a difference in our communities. A lifelong resident of the district, Congressman Bishop wanted to use this time to meet with area employers and employees to hear their stories, get input, and find ways to implement their ideas at a national level. Serving as the newest member of the House Ways & Means Committee, Congressman Bishop has taken their insight back to Washington, D.C., as the House continues its work on several big agenda items this fall.

BUT FIRST: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

In your opinion, which of the following issues should Congress prioritize **NEXT** in order to create more jobs and grow the economy?

- Health care
- Tax reform
- Apprenticeship programs
- Infrastructure
- Agency rules and regulations
- Review trade agreements
- Other

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*Note: by participating in this survey, you will be subscribed to Congressman Bishop's once-monthly e-newsletter

In case you missed it, here is a recap of the Congressman's tour...

BorgWarner – Auburn Hills, Mich.

Congressman Bishop kicked-off the tour by meeting with the team at BorgWarner, a worldwide manufacturer specializing in hybrid, electric, and combustion engines with a focus on improving efficiency and emissions in all types of vehicles. Headquartered in Auburn Hills, BorgWarner employs more than 150 residents of the 8th District. Their local team gave Rep. Bishop a tour of their powertrain technical center where they make parts. They also had an in-depth discussion about the need for tax reform, including ways to address repatriation, carryforwards, lowering corporate rates, and supporting American jobs.



**Shawn Pipoly Agency, Beverly Rae's Inc.,
Main Street Cheese Market – Brighton, Mich.**

In a swing through downtown Brighton, Congressman Bishop and Pam McConeghy from the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce met with several small businesses to learn about their day-to-day operations and talk about the big agenda items in Congress, including ways to simplify the tax code, reducing costly regulations that hold Main Street back, and creating more jobs. They also discussed the high cost of health care for small businesses, including those with only a few employees. This is something Rep. Bishop often hears about and is working to address in Congress' ongoing health care discussions. There were also concerns voiced about the way online retail is competing with brick and mortar shops, and how they are adjusting to the trend.

- **WHMI 93.5FM:** [*Bishop On "Jobs & Economy Tour" Of 8th District – 8/25/17*](#)



Pratt& Miller Engineering – New Hudson, Mich.

With nearly one-third of their employees living in Michigan's 8th District, Pratt & Miller invited Congressman Bishop on a tour of their full-service, low volume engineering center. They specialize in developing robust processes and advanced technologies for use in the defense, automotive, and power-sports industries. On the tour, Rep. Bishop and their team had a great discussion about skilled jobs training and the ways they are building meaningful career opportunities at the New Hudson center.



MEDC tour of the Mason façade project – Mason, Mich.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation invited Congressman Bishop to kick-off their statewide tour highlighting the ways Community Development Block Grant funding can help with local revitalization initiatives. Rep. Bishop toured a façade project downtown Mason and talked with local officials about making Main Street America more appealing for job creators to invest and set up shop.

- **Detroit Free Press:** [Tour shows how community block grants have revitalized Michigan cities](#) – 8/9/17



Paul & Dawn Marie Joseph – Williamston, Mich.

Paul and Dawn Marie, constituents who own a variety of small businesses in Williamston, met with Congressman Bishop to talk about America's ongoing health care crisis and ways to move discussions forward. As small business owners, they are especially concerned about the skyrocketing cost of health care – not only as job providers, but as a family – and how the increased costs can hold small business back from expanding and hiring more employees.



Bekum America Corporation – Williamston, Mich.

A global machinery manufacturer rooted in Williamston, Bekum America hosted Congressman Bishop for a tour of their facility followed by a discussion on several economic issues in Congress. Bekum is known for their quality plastic blow-molding machinery, selling equipment and parts to companies across a variety of industries, including autos, food and beverage, and sporting goods. A major highlight of their discussion with Rep. Bishop included the need to improve and promote apprenticeship programs at the national level – to help students transition directly into the workforce and fill the high-skilled jobs available today. They also talked about the need for tax reform and creating more jobs in America.



North Winds Heating& Cooling, Inc. – Okemos, Mich.

Barb Krejcik-King, owner of North Winds Heating& Cooling, Inc., met with the Congressman to talk about her small business and the need for tax reform, which they both agree is long overdue. She especially hopes Congress can find ways to simplify the tax code. They also discussed the impacts of today's growing health care costs and the demand for skilled workers.



Bradhart Products, Inc. – Brighton, Mich.

Congressman Bishop toured Bradhart in Brighton to get an in-depth look at their full-service manufacturing business. Based in the district and servicing industries across the world, Bradhart specializes in parts and precision machinery – and their facility in Brighton showed just how much time and care goes into their products. President Steve Thiele, his father and CEO Karl Thiele, and Executive Vice President Craig Winbigler showed the Congressman what their employees do at various steps in the production process and what goes into their quality testing before parts can be distributed. Following their tour, the group had an in-depth discussion about the prospects of tax reform and the importance of apprenticeship programs for young adults today.



United Parcel Service (UPS) – Howell, Mich.

To conclude his tour, Congressman Bishop visited the UPS Distribution Center in Howell. He had a positive meeting with members of their Great Lakes District, including Mary Fenech, Director of Sales, and Matt Szukalowski, Manager of Industrial and Automotive Marketing. The discussion focused on jobs, diversity in the workplace, the prospects of health care reform, and the need to improve Michigan's infrastructure – which is critical for their team to deliver fast, safe, quality service.



For more information about what Congressman Bishop and the U.S. House of Representatives are working on this fall, visit his official website at www.mikebishop.house.gov.

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