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Senator Gillibrand's economic proposal seeks aid for manufacturers

BY CHRIS MILLER

As the economy continues to be the number one issue on everyone's mind, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., unveiled her plan July 7 to help New York's small and mid-sized businesses create jobs, especially those within the hard hit manufacturing sector.

Referring to manufacturing as the "backbone of our economy," the democratic lawmaker said the industry has powered New York through the 20th Century and for generations manufacturing has defined hard work, integrity, and quality throughout the state.

Citing the loss of more than 160,000 manufacturing jobs in the state since 2001 – including over 6,000 in the Hudson Valley from 2001 – 2008.

"I am very concerned about the unemployment rates. We need to do much more to turn around this economy and create jobs," said Gillibrand. "We need to make sure that we are focused on how we can increase manufacturing in New York."

U.S. unemployment increased to 9.5 percent in June after employers eliminated 467,000 jobs, which is the highest in 26 years.

"We've lost more than our fair share of manufacturing jobs and nearly a quarter of our manufacturing sector," Gillibrand said, referring that 30 percent of all jobs lost since December 2007 were in manufacturing.

52 of New York's 62 counties, she stated, show a significant loss of manufacturing jobs since 2001, while the remaining ten counties only showed short-term, unsustainable gains.

The Senator laid out three ideas that she believes will begin the process of rebuilding the manufacturing sector and to help the state's manufacturers.

According to Gillibrand, having access to affordable healthcare for small businesses and for those that are self-employed is one of the highest priorities. She co-sponsored and introduced a bill to the Senate floor last week called the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Act. The new legislation would allow small businesses to buy into an insurance pool with other businesses to reduce costs. The SHOP Act would also offer a tax credit of \$1,000 for each insured employee and \$2,000 per family for businesses with less than fifty employees.

For self-employed workers, the tax credit is \$1,800 for individuals and \$3,600 for families.

The SHOP ACT is currently under review by the health and finance committees, and Gillibrand hopes the bill could be part of

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Gillibrand works to save manufacturing jobs

Dutchess Community Foundation awards scholarships for 2009

The Community Foundation has awarded nearly 200 local students more than \$250,000 in scholarships and awards for the coming school year. The money comes from

and the Poughkeepsie and Wappingers school districts.

One such scholarship is the Joseph H. and Mildred C. McManus Scholarship, which



Recipients of the 2009 Joseph H. and Mildred C. McManus Scholarship. Each will receive \$1,500 for four years. (Pictured left to right) Tracy Moore, Poughkeepsie High School; Peter Keenan, John Jay High School; Rebecca Skidmore, College of St. Rose; Chevon Hunter, Poughkeepsie High School; Marisa Caruso, Roy C. Ketcham High School and Nevill Smythe, Vice President Programs at the Community Foundation.

Photo provided

endowment funds held at the Community Foundation and through partnerships with organizations like the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce,

was established through the wishes of Joseph and Mildred McManus to help students throughout Dutchess County. This scholarship is not necessarily intended for those

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A new way to work

BY DYLAN SKRILOFF

The trend of "coworking" is finding a home in Beacon with Beahive (www.beahivebeacon.com) — an open workspace for those who don't work in a traditional office place. Coworking, says Beahive's founder Scott Tillitt, potentially offers a more beneficial alternative than working from home, at a coffee house or renting a small office. It offers a quiet environment with people of a like mind in the same room as you.

Beahive currently has 19 members and is recruiting for more. Rates run from a day pass for \$20 to a permanent desk with 24/7 access for \$200 a month. Tillitt describes the clientele as "the creative class," including solopreneurs, microbusinesses, consultants, artists, graphic designers and freelance writers. In the internet age these kinds of workers often

will set up shop in cafes and coffee houses with internet connections or be home alone.

"We're building a community of members from diverse backgrounds with a

tantly, we'll foment some ideas to help in creating a lively, living, local community by collaborating on community-based projects," Tillitt adds. "Like an incubator with a social mission."

Beahive will also hold personal and professional development workshops and social and cultural events. The first such event was the "Hive Launch" party on June 20, featuring music by singer-songwriter Larry Sansone and guest DJs, wine provided by Zette and food provided by local farms. Beahive occupies the renovated 1907 Bell Telephone building at 291 Main Street in Beacon.

Tillitt calls it "the most gorgeous space on Main Street." He said when he saw the building he was initially concerned about rent prices but decided it was so great an opportunity he "had to make it work."

Tillitt noted that the coworking idea evolved out of the San Francisco tech

community and can be traced to a man now working at Google. There are "high dozens" of such offices around the world now, he said. Tillitt himself moved from Brooklyn to Beacon three years ago. In addition to creating a community and earning money, he is doing coworking for himself. "I was tired of working from home. A few months ago decided I didn't want to do that anymore. This could be an entry to a more community oriented space. Building a community of people who want to improve their professional lives and the Beacon community."

Tillitt said he'd like to create a bartering network through Beahive as well as promote the services of those who become members. He said that he hopes Beahive becomes more than a workspace, evolving into a cooperative network.

CEO confidence improves in second quarter

The Conference Board Measure of CEO Confidence, which had increased in the first quarter of 2009, surged in the second quarter. The Measure improved to 55, up from 30 last quarter (a reading of more than 50 points reflects more positive than negative responses). The survey includes about 100 business leaders in a wide range of industries.

"CEOs are considerably more optimistic than last time about the short-term outlook, however, their assessment of current conditions, while also improved, suggests the economy remains weak," says Lynn Franco, Director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center. "Among those expecting an increase in profits over the next year, the majority see cost reductions as the primary driver."

CEOs' assessment of current economic conditions was considerably less pessimistic. Now, 32 percent claim conditions have improved compared to six months ago, up from zero percent last quarter. In assessing their own industries, business leaders were also much less negative. Now, 24 percent claim conditions are better, up from just one percent in the first quarter.

Looking ahead six months, CEOs are much more optimistic. Nearly 55 percent of business leaders expect economic conditions to improve in the next six months, up from approximately 17 percent last quarter. Expectations for their own industries were also more optimistic, with 45 percent of CEOs anticipating an improvement in the months ahead, up from 26 percent last quarter.

On the issue of profit expectations over the next 12 months, 46 percent of executives anticipate increases. Executives engaged in the durable goods industry are the most optimistic, with 77 percent expecting profits to increase. Executives in the non-durable goods industry are second, with 64 percent anticipating a rise in profits.

Among chief executive officers who expect profits to increase, 56 percent believe cost reductions will drive profits up, while 33 percent cite market/demand growth as the main source of improvement. Only 7 percent cite new technology as a driver of growth and the remaining 4 percent cite price increases.

Survey results were fielded from mid-May to mid-June.

Source:

CEO Confidence 2nd Quarter 2009
The Conference Board



Several BEAHIVE members at work, including founder Scott Tillitt (foreground).

Photo: Rob Penner

range of creative and technical talents and a desire to improve our professional lives, our personal lives and our community of Beacon and the surrounding Hudson Valley," said Tillitt, who is also founder of Antidote Collective, a socially conscious communications practice. "More impor-



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