

The Telegraph

Enyart introduces JOBS Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Bill Enyart has introduced the Job Opportunities Between our Shores (JOBS) Act, an initiative to promote advanced manufacturing in Southern Illinois and give dislocated workers the training and skills they need to find new jobs in growing industries.

Enyart's JOBS Act would expand partnerships among leading manufacturers and local community colleges and workforce investment boards to ensure that retraining programs prepare unemployed and dislocated workers with the specific technical skills and qualifications they need and that emerging industries hire locally.

"Southern Illinois families are worried about jobs - not just to get back on their feet today, but about the opportunities that will be here for our kids and grandkids," said Enyart, D-Belleville, who represents Illinois' 12th Congressional District.

"We need to invest in our greatest asset, our workforce, and support growing industries like advanced manufacturers that are creating new jobs, and it's my hope the JOBS Act will inspire communities to do just that."

Enyart recently visited Afton Chemical in Sauget and Alton Steel, which are leaders in Southern Illinois' advanced manufacturing industry. While thousands of Southern Illinois workers have lost their jobs when companies offshore to countries like China and Mexico because of unfair trade deals, the advanced manufacturing sector in the

United States has continued to grow. The challenge the industry faces is a growing gap between new jobs in advanced manufacturing and workers qualified with the unique skill set to fill them. With his JOBS Act, Enyart seeks to connect workers who have lost their jobs due to unfair trade deals with the right skills training to secure a new opportunity with a local advanced manufacturer looking to hire.

"My chief concern is working to create and attract good jobs in Southern Illinois, and through the JOBS Act, we can ensure that manufacturers hire locally and our workers have the tools and skills they need to succeed," Enyart said.

U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., is the original co-sponsor of the JOBS Act.