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Congressman Arcuri visits MCCI to talk small business

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ULYSSES - Congressman Michael Arcuri visited Ithaca technology company MCCI Friday to discuss the needs of small businesses during rough economic times.

Arcuri wanted to hear from an experienced businessman instead of an economist to better understand how the government can support companies such as MCCI. He sat down with CEO Terrill Moore, who stressed that small businesses face different obstacles than big businesses, and Upstate New York comes with its own set of difficulties.

The company, which develops USB software for cell phones, is one of the 1.9 million small businesses in New York.

Moore started MCCI out of a 19th century farmhouse in Ulysses in 1995. The business sells primarily in Asia and Europe.

"If you don't have the small business experience, you can't understand what the problems are," Moore said. He said that Ithaca businesses face two distinct challenges: quick and easy international travel and job placement for spouses.

Arcuri said transportation is a barrier that he's been considering and that transportation should be considered regionally. "We don't create jobs," he said. "We create the infrastructure that makes it easier to create jobs."

Moore said that small businesses have more than just financial capital. Value lies in the chemistry among employees. "People in small businesses are not interchangeable when it's working," he said. "That's a form of capital. It's hard to create."
