

Congressional Hopeful Attacks Lowey's Economic Record

By Neal Rentz

Standing against the backdrop of the shuttered General Motors plant in Tarrytown on Labor Day, 18th Congressional District candidate Jim Russell attacked the economic record of his opponent, Rep. Nita Lowey.

Accompanied by several supporters, Russell, a Republican, was especially critical of General Motors, which he said was building cars in Mexico and Indonesia despite receiving a multibillion-dollar loan from the federal government.

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JIM RUSSELL

"We come here today to honor the American worker, who has made our country great," Russell said. "We're also here to address the severe economic crisis that confronts us all."

In 1996, General Motors closed its doors following passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement that allowed and encouraged the exportation of American jobs overseas, Russell said. He would support a repeal of the agreement if elected to the House.

Russell mentioned that he was surprised



Jim Russell, the Republican candidate in the 18th Congressional District against Rep. Nita Lowey, addressed economic issues during a press conference in Tarrytown.

to learn GM was going to make a new vehicle by investing \$500 million in a plant located in Mexico and not in the United States despite a \$56 billion bailout.

"Then I heard that they're going to rehabilitate an old plant that was shut down. I said 'Wow, maybe that's here in Sleepy Hollow' ... but no, that plant is in Indonesia," he said.

Russell contended that Congress supervised the agreement to use tax dollars to help GM, but failed to stipulate that GM reinvest in the American workforce when it returned to profitability.

"If you elect me to Congress I'll see to it that the American worker is served and we don't make agreements with companies that allow them to continue reinvesting overseas while we have 35,000 Westchester residents unemployed," Russell said.

He said he would support incentives to have companies return their factories to America.

Russell also said he would work to obtain more federal contracts for the district, which ranks 368th out of 435 in the value of federal defense, scientific and technologically contracts, he said.

Russell criticized Lowey for the over 40 earmark accounts she has set up that are "small trinkets ... that allows her to get coverage at election time."

"I want real, substantive economic growth for our neighborhoods and for our country," Russell said.

Since 2008, four major employers—Stewart Stamping EFI in Yonkers, Precision Valve Corporation in Yonkers, the Taylor Care Center at Westchester Medical Center and TEVA Pharmaceuticals USA in Congers—left the district, which resulted in the loss of 660 jobs, he said.

"I pledge to you that if you elect me I will see to it that in any future agreements with companies like GM, that when we help them out we make sure that they help out the American workers and that we can

put our economy back in shape," Russell said.

Lowey's campaign responded to Russell's comments by stating that the 11-term Democrat has supported closing tax loopholes that encourage the outsourcing of American jobs, as well as expanding tax incentives for domestic research, innovation and hiring unemployed Americans.

A prepared statement from Lowey's office last week defended her record, saying she has backed investments to give 95 percent of American families a tax break of up to \$800 and saved or created millions of jobs in a variety of sectors, such as teachers, police officers and firefighters, along with building roads.

"We must remain on the path to prosperity and job creation by investing in our infrastructure, clean energy and our small businesses," Lowey's statement said.

