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Herger**
Congressman

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Economy Stays Strong as Gas Prices Plunge

Key Investment Index Reaches All-time High and Deficit Forecast Declines

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Herger (CA-02) today commented on positive news among several key economic indicators. The September jobs report, released yesterday, indicated that 51,000 new jobs were created during the month. The national unemployment rate fell to 4.6%, which is lower than the average rate of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Meanwhile, gas prices have fallen an average of over seventy cents per gallon over the past two months. Further, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 11,866.69 on Thursday, an all-time high, and the Congressional Budget Office projected that the fiscal year 2006 deficit will be \$121 billion less than its initial forecast. Herger had the following reaction:

"This week's positive economic news further demonstrates that the U.S. economy remains robust," Herger stated. "Nearly 6 million new jobs have been created since Congress passed substantial tax relief in 2003, causing the national unemployment rate to dive from over 6 percent, to 4.6 percent today. We must continue working to create jobs and foster economic growth locally, but these numbers tell us that our pro-growth policies focusing on lower taxes and less government regulation are working."

"Meanwhile, the dramatic fall in gas prices is welcome news for all Americans," continued Herger. "Americans are already using their money saved at the pump to spur retail sales and foster continued economic growth. It is not surprising that the Dow has reached an all time high, indicating that investors are confident in the American economy."

"Our nation's strong economic growth and job creation have led to surging tax revenue, even as tax rates have been dramatically reduced. Work remains in reining in federal spending, but now is not the time to raise taxes as some would suggest. Instead, we must continue the pro-growth policies that have triggered entrepreneurship, strong job creation, and a declining deficit," concluded Herger.

To access a Congressman Herger's radio actuality on this issue, go to
<http://www.GOP.gov/mediaclips/4374/44/437444.rm>

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!