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## SENATOR CLAIRE MCCASKILL EXPANDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BOOSTING BUSINESS

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**Hosted workshops to connect Missouri’s small businesses with resources to compete, expand, and create more jobs.** Since taking office, Sen. McCaskill has hosted several small business [workshops](#), roundtables, and procurement [conferences](#), putting Missouri small businesses directly in touch with officials from a variety of government agencies including the Department of Defense, the Small Business Administration and the Missouri Department of Transportation. More than 200 government buying offices and 1,300 contractors were invited to participate in McCaskill’s 2012 procurement conference.

**Crafted bipartisan legislation to boost jobs, cut taxes for small businesses.** Sen. McCaskill worked with Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine to write the [Bipartisan Jobs Creation Act](#), which would create jobs by cutting taxes for businesses, investing in the nation’s critical infrastructure, and extending the Payroll Tax Cut initially included in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. The legislation also aimed to cut federal red tape for manufacturers and employers, and strengthen federal job training programs.

**Successfully fought to prevent unreasonable rules, regulations on job-creators.** As recently as June—when she successfully intervened with the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of [Holcim](#), a manufacturer in Ste. Genevieve, winning a delay in regulations that could have hurt the business—Sen. McCaskill successfully fought to prevent or delay unreasonable rules or regulations on Missouri’s job-creators. McCaskill led the effort to block any rules that would prevent teenagers from working on family farms and ranches, helped stop nonsensical regulation of farm dust, and won an exemption for farmers and ranchers from transportation rules aimed at commercial truck drivers. She also intervened on behalf of Missouri homebuilders to ensure safety standards were applied more reasonably.

**Stood up against China’s unfair trade practices that are harming Missouri manufacturers.** Sen. McCaskill [told a commission](#) charged with punishing unfair trade practices that the government of China is engaged in actions that are unfairly harming an employer in Sedalia, Mo. She testified to the International Trade Commission on behalf of Hayes Lemmerz in Sedalia—a steel wheels plant that employs more than 300 Missourians—in support of a case the company has brought against Chinese companies receiving government subsidies. “Americans accept that there are going to be good times and bad times,” Sen. McCaskill told the Commission. “But they cannot accept when these jobs go away because of unfair and illegal subsidies provided to foreign competition.” Sen. McCaskill also led the effort to pass [legislation](#) cracking down on duty evasion by China and other foreign governments.

**Strongly supports Keystone XL Pipeline, Nuclear SMR project, and other ways to develop homegrown American energy.** Citing, among other benefits, the potential for thousands of new American jobs, Sen. McCaskill has strongly and consistently supported construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. She recently [urged](#) U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to fast-track approval for construction of the remainder of the pipeline. Sen. McCaskill also strongly [supports](#) construction of the Flanagan South oil pipeline, and has [endorsed](#) an application by Ameren Missouri and Westinghouse to design and build a modular nuclear unit for export in Missouri.

**Fought to expand job opportunities through road and bridge projects.** Sen. McCaskill successfully helped [pass](#) a bipartisan Highway Jobs Bill to infuse hundreds of millions of dollars into Missouri transportation projects over two years. The bill enjoyed the support of business and labor groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, the American Equipment Manufacturers, and the Associated General Contractors of America. Sen. McCaskill has also [continued to fight](#) to pass her bill to strip funds for large-scale construction projects in Afghanistan and redirect those resources for use in the construction of roads and bridges in America.

**Championed job opportunities for military veterans.** A [founding member](#) of the Senate Veterans Jobs Caucus, Sen. McCaskill has successfully expanded job opportunities for veterans returning home. McCaskill helped [pass](#) the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, which provides tax credits to employers to hire veterans, extends educational opportunities to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, and takes steps to help veterans translate their military experience into relevant skills sought by civilian employers.

**Eased the ability for start-up companies to secure capital and create jobs.** Sen. McCaskill successfully helped pass the *Jumpstarting our Small Businesses (JOBS) Act*, which cut red tape and restrictions on the way start-up companies can raise money from individual investors.

**Freed up small business resources to boost employment.** The *Small Business Jobs Act*, which became law in 2010 with Sen. McCaskill's strong [support](#), helped bolster job-creation by cutting taxes for small businesses by more than \$12 billion without adding to the national deficit.

**Passed the *HIRE Act* aimed at hiring unemployed workers.** Sen. McCaskill helped lead the effort to pass [legislation](#) providing tax credits to small businesses that hire workers who have been unemployed for more than six months.

**Shaped and helped pass a bipartisan Farm Bill to support agriculture jobs across rural America.** Sen. McCaskill helped pass a [sweeping Farm Bill](#) in the Senate in 2012 that supports agriculture jobs, strengthens resources for family farms and ranches, and reduces the national deficit by more than \$23 billion. The Farm Bill protects crucial resources that allow Missouri's crop producers to manage

risk and that help Missouri's dairy farmers to cope with high costs—ensuring the country has reliable access to safe and affordable food. The legislation also includes a provision by McCaskill to ensure resources set aside to expand broadband access in rural communities do not get diverted to projects in large metropolitan areas that already enjoy access to such services. While the Farm Bill has been blocked in the U.S. House, Missouri's top sportsmens' organizations joined together to [thank](#) Sen. McCaskill for her leadership in fighting for the legislation.

**Boosted U.S. exports and manufacturing opportunities.** With strong support from Sen. McCaskill, Congress in 2012 [renewed](#) the U.S. Export-Import Bank, an agency that supports American manufacturers and producers without adding to the national deficit. The legislation aims to boost American exports in order to support manufacturing and agriculture jobs in Missouri and across the country, and was endorsed by business groups across the country, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Roundtable, and National Association of Manufacturers.

**Brought Missouri employers' input back to the Senate.** Sen. McCaskill [criss-crossed](#) Missouri in the summer of 2011 on a Manufacturing Jobs Tour, holding meetings with local business owners in all corners of the state. Representatives from local companies had the opportunity to share ideas and concerns with Sen. McCaskill on how to continue expanding business and job opportunities across the state, and how to stop jobs from being shipped overseas—input that she then brought back with her to the Senate.

**Moved to protect contracting work for small businesses.** An investigation spearheaded by Sen. McCaskill targeted the various loopholes, oversight failures, and tangled regulations which have resulted in contracts intended for small businesses being performed, instead, by large corporations. McCaskill, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight, [chaired a Senate hearing](#) aimed at protecting small businesses and exploring how to fix the complicated government bureaucracy that allows contracts awarded to, or performed by, large corporations to be counted as small business contracts.

**Voted to support legislation helping unemployed workers find jobs.** In 2009, the *Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act* [cut taxes](#) by more than \$21 billion for homebuyers and businesses, while providing much-needed support for workers who are still struggling to find jobs.

**Boosted research & development.** The reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs now requires that federal agencies with sizeable research and development budgets devote a certain amount of their resources to small companies, providing a pathway to early-stage investment and more employment opportunities.

**Gave small businesses access to loans, credit to hire more workers.** Sen. McCaskill helped secure extensions of credit and loans from the Small Business

Administration for small businesses to continue expanding and hiring more workers.

**Helped pass the most significant tax cuts in decades for middle-class Missouri families as part of *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*.** Missouri families and businesses saw their taxes cut by hundreds of millions of dollars through the *Recovery Act*, which Sen. McCaskill helped pass. Those tax cuts included the Making Work Pay tax credit, the first time homebuyer tax credit, the child tax credit, the earned income tax credit, and Social Security and Veterans tax credits.

**Lowered taxes for working families.** With tax cuts for all Americans set to expire in 2010, Sen. McCaskill voted to keep those tax cuts in place for working families, so middle class Missourians wouldn't see their taxes increase.

**Secured tax credits for small businesses to help cover health costs for employees.** Small businesses across Missouri and the country are receiving sizable tax credits to help provide health insurance to their employees as part of the health care reform law.