



Mind2Marketplace

The Vital Connection for Middle Tennessee Technologies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2008

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Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District joins Tennessee Valley Corridor and Becomes Part of the High-Tech Corridor
Congressman Bart Gordon and Zach Wamp Join Regional Leaders at Official Announcement in Murfreesboro

Murfreesboro, Tenn. – Congressmen Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Zach Wamp (R-TN) joined with the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Corridor, Inc. (TVC) and with key leaders from Middle Tennessee's Mind2Marketplace (M2M) group today on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to officially announce that the footprint of the Tennessee Valley Corridor, an award-winning regional economic and technology development organization, will be expanded to include Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

"Too many of our children are forced to leave their home towns to pursue job opportunities elsewhere. By working together, we can create higher paying jobs close to home," Gordon said. Gordon also pointed out in another statement that, "eighty-five percent of measured growth in U.S. income per capita is due to technological change. Without high-quality, knowledge intensive jobs and the innovative enterprises that lead to discovery and new technology, our economy will suffer, and we will face a lower standard of living." Congressman Gordon chairs the House Science and Technology Committee.

"Today's announcement is an energizing event for the founding group of inter-institutional representatives who have made the vital connections in middle Tennessee to move ideas into the marketplace and provide the educated workforce necessary to attract and sustain these businesses", said Andrea Loughry, Chairperson of Mind2Marketplace.

Mind2Marketplace (M2M) is a consortium of academic professionals, businesspeople, PK-12 educators, Chambers of Commerce and government leaders dedicated to helping bring the brightest and best ideas in Middle Tennessee technology to reality, with job creation the ultimate goal. M2M was formed in 2006 when Congressman Gordon, current Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology called for a coordinated effort to bring technology-based ideas and concepts forward to be developed, tested and introduced to the marketplace, all in order to create jobs and expand economic development. Congressman Gordon offered the assistance of his Committee on Science on an ongoing basis to aid in this effort to help establish an aggressive strategic connection between people or organizations with

marketable ideas and the final marketplace. M2M covers the 40-county area in middle Tennessee surrounding Nashville, TN, with a diagonal connection to partners at the Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Oak Ridge, TN and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

“From Tennessee Tech to MTSU, to all of the automotive facilities and the many other science and technology assets, Congressman Gordon’s district is exactly the type of region the Corridor wants to partner with,” said Congressman Wamp. “We look forward to working with our new partners in Middle Tennessee to find even more ways to build strong, mutually-beneficial partnerships with other high-tech communities and institutions in Oak Ridge and Tullahoma, Tenn. Huntsville, Ala., and throughout the Valley for the benefit of the entire region.”

During the question and answer session Congressman Wamp replied to an inquiry made by M2M Chair, Andrea Loughry, about the possibility of having the 2009 Tennessee Valley Corridor Fall Summit in Middle Tennessee by telling the audience that he would endorse having that meeting in Middle Tennessee.

The *Tennessee Valley Corridor* (TVC) is a multi-state regional economic development organization dedicated to promoting the *Tennessee Valley Corridor* as one of the nation's premier science and technology centers, and to leveraging the Valley's abundant research and technology assets and institutions for maximum regional economic development and new job creation.

For more information on Mind2Marketplace, please visit www.mind2marketplace.com and more information on the Tennessee Valley Corridor can be found at www.tennvalleycorridor.org.

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