

BELVIDERE REPUBLICAN

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Manzullo to focus on putting Americans back to work

WASHINGTON—Congressman Don Manzullo (R-Egan) was sworn into his sixth term of office Tuesday, vowing to continue promoting legislation that will stimulate our sagging economy and put Americans back to work where they belong.

Manzullo's other priorities for 2003 will include protecting Americans from terrorism at home and abroad, reducing the tremendous costs of health insurance and prescription drugs, and securing transportation funding

for northern Illinois.

Manzullo, Chairman of the Small Business Committee, will again represent the 16th Congressional District of Illinois in the 108th Congress.

The district, redrawn last year to reflect changes from the 2000 U.S. Census, includes the counties of Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Carroll, two-thirds of McHenry County, the top half of DeKalb County, and the top third of Whiteside County.

As one of 17 standing committee chairmen in the House last Congress, Manzullo held more than 50 full committee hearings exploring ways to reduce taxes and regulations on American companies to save jobs, lower skyrocketing employer health care costs for employers, and find new business opportunities overseas with the federal government for struggling American companies.

Many of the hearings featured small employers from northern Illinois who Manzullo invited to Washington, D.C. to seek relief from Congress.

"We must continue to reduce the tremendous tax and regulatory burden on American employers so they can better compete, expand their businesses and put hard-working Americans back in their jobs where they belong," Manzullo said.

On the local front, Manzullo will focus on trying to secure as much funding as possible for northern Illinois roads and transit in the upcoming 6-year transportation funding bill.

Manzullo, who secured \$18 million for specific northern Illinois projects in 1998, will seek further funding this year for northern Illinois.

Since more than 90 percent of the federal road funding comes directly back to the states for block grant distribution, Manzullo will also join with state legislators from northern Illinois to lobby the new governor and legislature for northern Illinois' fair share.