

TSONGAS IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Congresswoman Niki Tsongas is known for her roots in the Third District and her years of public service to the region. In Congress, she's worked hard to make a real difference in the lives of servicemen and women serving on our behalf, military families supporting those who serve, veterans seeking the care and benefits they've earned, consumers harmed by predatory and abusive industries, seniors who want to retire with independence and dignity, women who deserve a voice to protect their rights and health, middle class families who are looking for a fair shot at the American Dream, students seeking to expand their opportunities, small business owners trying to grow their companies, and everyone who enjoys the rivers and natural resources that give this region its storied and revolutionary history. Her accessibility and accountability to the residents of the district she serves remains one of the hallmarks of her office.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF HER WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TSONGAS PROVISION DEFENDING HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE WINS SUPPORT OF REPUBLICAN HOUSE– Hanscom Air Force Base has met critical communications, technology, and other security needs for our military for the last several decades. The Air Force's mission at Hanscom is supported by the universities and innovative high-tech institutions that are unique to Massachusetts and the base is a substantial economic driver in our region. Tsongas authored legislation which states that the Air Force cannot diminish Hanscom's capabilities or its important work without Congressional approval; the first step in protecting Hanscom's mission going forward. The legislation was passed by the House in May and will be taken up by the Senate in November. Tsongas was also successful in including a provision in the Defense Authorization Act that would encourage the highly successful partnership between MIT's Lincoln Labs and Hanscom AFB to continue by allowing a \$450 million modernization project to move forward.

TSONGAS LEGISLATION PROTECTING SOLDIERS ON THE BATTLEFIELD BECOMES LAW– Since coming to Congress, Niki Tsongas has pushed for the development of safer, lighter-weight and better fitting body armor for our troops in the field. She passed a law in 2009 to ensure that there was a more dedicated stream of funding for body armor research. Heavy body armor is the cause of many injuries and Tsongas even heard from servicemembers who acknowledged that they remove their body armor on the battlefield because it is too cumbersome. Her efforts helped lead to the tripling of the financial commitment to body armor research and development in legislation that the House of Representatives passed earlier this year. Future R&D will be guided by the findings of a Rand Arroyo Center study on lightening body armor which was authorized by an amendment Tsongas successfully attached to the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act. Today, much of the research and development funded by her legislation is happening right here in Massachusetts at Natick Soldier Systems Center.

TSONGAS LEGISLATION SECURING FIRST-EVER FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FEMALE BODY ARMOR PASSES REPUBLICAN-LED HOUSE– In addition to this expanded financial commitment for the development of lighter-weight body armor, a provision Tsongas inserted in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, with the support of Republican Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), recognizes the role that women are already playing on the front lines of our battlefields by directing the Defense Department to develop body armor specifically for female soldiers. This is the first time funding for female specific body armor has been included in the bill. Fourteen percent of the U.S. military is now female, a figure that is expected to rise to 25% by 2025, and women will see their combat roles expanded further in the years ahead pursuant to the Defense Department's welcome review of women in combat. Tsongas' legislation helps to ensure that our female soldiers will be provided the same level of protection as their male counterparts by directing the development of gender-specific body armor to ensure that this life saving technology properly fits and protects all of our servicemembers.

TSONGAS LEADERSHIP HELPS SAVE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM AND DISTRICT JOBS – As a member of a select group of House and Senate members, appointed by Republican Speaker John Boehner, tasked with crafting a final defense bill, Tsongas was successful in including language, signed into law last year, which reauthorized the highly successful Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program for six years. The SBIR program has functioned as a critical job creation tool in Massachusetts and has provided essential R&D funding for local firms while enabling inventors and engineers to start new businesses and deliver needed products to the market. Massachusetts has received the highest number of SBIR grant awards and total dollars, per capita, since the program’s inception. However, some members of Congress were advocating changes to the program that would have altered its original intent and put Massachusetts small businesses at a distinct disadvantage. In addition, those changes would have also resulted in the federal government adopting ‘second best’ technology because of arbitrary quotas. The 6-year reauthorization of the program retains its proper focus on true small businesses and provides the certainty our small businesses need to plan ahead, make investments, and expand their workforce.

NSBA RECOGNIZES TSONGAS AS “CHAMPION OF SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION”– As a result of this work, Congresswoman Tsongas was named a “Champion of Small Business Innovation” by the National Small Business Association, a national small business group, and the Small Business Technology Council. Praising her work on the issue ever since coming to Congress, the president of the NSBA, a Republican, thanked Tsongas for her “indispensable and politically-courageous efforts” on behalf of small business.

TSONGAS LEADERSHIP LEADS TO HISTORIC MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION MEASURES– Tsongas is a recognized national leader in efforts to prevent sexual assault in the military and to provide victims of this crime with new rights and greater legal protections. Studies have revealed that as many as 1 in 3 women leaving military service report that they have experienced some form of Military Sexual Trauma. By the Pentagon’s own estimate, as few as 13.5% of sexual assaults are reported. At the end of 2011, President Obama signed into law provisions contained in the Defense Sexual Trauma Response, Oversight and Good Governance Act (Defense STRONG Act), bipartisan legislation authored by Tsongas which grants victims the right to a base transfer, the right to legal counsel, the right to confidentiality when seeking assistance from an advocate, and mandates greater training for sexual assault prevention at every level of the Armed Services. The Republican chairman of the committee, Buck McKeon (CA), explicitly praised Tsongas’s work during debate on the House floor, saying “[Ms. Tsongas has] done great work with Mr. Turner.” (December 07, 2011)

Tsongas co-chairs the Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus in the House of Representatives, along with Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH). In April, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey made an unprecedented visit to Capitol Hill to meet with the Caucus and announce a series of new initiatives designed to combat sexual assault in the military. Any sexual assault against a military service member will now be subject to review by an officer no lower than the rank of Colonel and each service branch will form Special Victims Units that will dedicate greater resources and expertise to sexual assault investigations and the prosecution of these offenses. Both new policies are seen as essential in changing the culture of the services in confronting these assaults, and in this year’s house-passed Defense Authorization Bill, Tsongas successfully championed language that would make Secretary Panetta’s important changes the law.

TSONGAS CHAMPIONS LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND HAMILTON CANAL DISTRICT, LOWELL’S SIGNATURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – The extraordinary transformation of Lowell began when the Lowell National Historical Park was established within the city’s core, the first urban national park of its kind in the United States. Tsongas has strongly supported public investment in the Park which has leveraged millions in private investment in the redevelopment of Lowell’s historic Hamilton Canal District. Fifteen acres of vacant and underutilized land in the Jackson, Appleton, and

Middlesex Street area known as the Hamilton Canal District will be redeveloped into a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood spanning the Merrimack, Pawtucket and Hamilton Canals. When complete, the Hamilton Canal District in the heart of Lowell will create nearly two million square feet for commercial, retail, and housing space, as well as hundreds of new jobs and an estimated \$400 million in annual tax revenue for the City.

TSONGAS LEGISLATION CRITICAL TO PROJECT BECOMES LAW– Legislation authored by Tsongas, H.R. 2240, the Lowell National Historical Park Land Exchange Act, was unanimously passed by the Republican-led House and the Senate and signed by the President’s signature. This legislation allows the City of Lowell to continue with development of the Hamilton Canal District Project by exchanging land with the Lowell National Historical Park. The bill was one of two that Tsongas has had passed out of the highly-partisan Natural Resources Committee. During committee and House consideration of the bill, the Republican full and subcommittee chairman both praised it. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), one of the most conservative members of the House, stated, “I really don’t have a question on this because Ms. Tsongas has done a good job on this bill,” calling it a “great bill” that would spur economic development in the community.

IMPROVING THE CANAL STREET BRIDGE– The Canal Street Bridge reopened this fall and serves as a major milestone in the development of the Hamilton Canal District. Improvements to the bridge were made possible with a \$2 million federal grant secured by Tsongas and matching state funds. On the same day, officials broke ground on a new office building at 110 Canal Street.

EXPANSION OF LOWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER– Congresswoman Tsongas helped secure nearly \$800,000 in federal funds that will be used to expand Lowell Community Health Center and renovate the Hamilton Crossing on the Hamilton Canal in Lowell.

TSONGAS PROTECTS TROOPS FROM PREDATORY LENDERS– Earlier this year, Tsongas joined in introducing the Military Savings Act, legislation to promote savings rates among military servicemembers and to decrease their vulnerability to predatory payday lenders in times of financial crisis. The legislation establishes a pilot program in which financial institutions operating on military bases will offer innovative financial products to help troops and their families improve their financial situations. Military servicemembers are three times more likely than civilians to resort to predatory “payday” loans that charge exorbitant interest rates.

TSONGAS INTRODUCES BIPARTISAN BILLS TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES CREATE JOBS

THE SMALL BUSINESS FAIRNESS ACT– Small businesses that have specific specializations or expertise are often unable to compete for larger and more complex government contracts. However, through so-called teaming arrangements they can identify and work with other small businesses to satisfy the needs of a given contract. Along with Republican Cynthia Lummis from Wyoming, Tsongas introduced The Small Business Fairness Act which would allow businesses to pool resources to compete for larger government procurement contracts and still keep their minority and disadvantaged contract status. This legislation will help small businesses that are owned by women and disabled veterans or which are located in Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Zones, which includes Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill and Methuen, pool their resources to more easily do business with the federal government.

TAX RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES– Tsongas introduced the Small Business Tax Relief and Retirement Restoration Act, bipartisan legislation which would provide immediate tax relief to small business owners who were forced to make withdrawals from their 401(k)s and IRAs to keep their businesses going during the small business credit crunch. Under Tsongas’ bill, small business owners can treat their withdrawal as a loan and can file an amended tax return to receive refunds for any income

taxes and early-withdrawal penalties they may have paid to the IRS over the last few years. By treating these withdrawals as a loan and allowing owners to repay them slowly, this bill will put money back in the hands of small business owners. The bill also creates an incentive for small business owners to restore the savings accounts they will need for retirement. Tsongas got the idea from a small business owner from the District.

TSONGAS INTRODUCES JOBS LEGISLATION AFTER HEARING FROM DISTRICT COMMUNITIES— After hearing from communities she represents about the lingering effects of the recession on certain areas that were particularly hard-hit, Tsongas introduced the Helping Individuals Return to Employment (HIRE) Act which would provide grants to help areas of the country experiencing persistently high unemployment rates put residents back to work. Barbara O'Neil, director of the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board, said the legislation would provide employment opportunities and new job skills to out-of-work residents. "Having the opportunity to work and be productive in the community instills a sense of accomplishment and future employment opportunities," O'Neil said. Jessica Andors, co-director of Lawrence Community Works, said the bill will put "people to work in professions that will be meaningful and increase people's sense of civic engagement while building their community."

TSONGAS PUSHES FOR BALANCED DEFICIT REDUCTION AND TAX FAIRNESS—Tsongas joined 99 of her colleagues, including 40 Republicans, in a strong, bipartisan effort to push congressional leaders to make a big down payment on the debt. FoxNews.com summed the action up as, "Moderate Lawmakers Lead Insurrection, Urge Super Committee to Defy Leadership and Go Big" (November 06, 2011). She also voted to reduce the deficit by \$2.1 trillion, including more than \$900 billion in discretionary spending cuts, and to extend the middle class tax cuts for all income below \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for families and to allow the tax cuts for the wealthiest earners to expire, saving more than \$800 billion in deficit reduction. Likewise, she has consistently called for closing loopholes that allowed companies like Exxon Mobil to avoid paying any federal income taxes even as they made billions of dollars in profit.

Consistent with her focus on how policy proposals might impact her constituents, Tsongas hosted a deficit reduction town hall meeting to discuss the country's debt and deficit and offer District residents the opportunity to propose specific solutions to the nation's budget challenges. The town hall offered participants the opportunity to provide their input on the federal budget and tackle some of the difficult questions associated with the national debt and deficit. Also participating in the town hall were representatives from the non-profit budget watchdog group the Concord Coalition.

BRINGS HIGHEST RANKING DEMOCRAT ON HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO SEE HANSCOM—Tsongas, the only member in the Massachusetts House delegation serving on the Armed Services Committee, has been working to highlight the significance of Massachusetts' installations and invited Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA) to Massachusetts to see firsthand the cutting edge work being done here. Smith toured Hanscom Air Force Base and MIT's Lincoln Labs stating, "I appreciated the opportunity to tour this impressive installation with Congresswoman Tsongas today. Hanscom is a major resource for our nation. Moving forward, it is well positioned to continue to leverage the highly skilled workforce and advanced technological companies and institutions that are unique to this region. On a global scale, the assets deployed from the base provide vital support to our men and women around the world as they confront threats to our national security."

TSONGAS SUPPORTS FREEZING CONGRESSIONAL PAY— Tsongas has helped introduce legislation to prevent Congress' scheduled pay raise from taking effect and voted to enact and extend a freeze in pay. When Tsongas was elected in 2007, she made a personal decision not to accept automatic congressional pay raises in years when they are in place, choosing instead to donate the amount of the pay raise to charity.

TSONGAS CUTS HER OWN BUDGET AND RETURNS MONEY TO TAXPAYERS—Tsongas has returned a portion of her Member’s Representational Allowance (MRA) to taxpayers each year she has been in office. The MRA is the budget that Members of Congress receive annually for expenses associated with the day-to-day operation of their offices such as computer equipment, office supplies, staff salaries, travel between Washington and their home districts, and rent and utilities for their district offices. Tsongas supports legislation that would mandate that all amounts remaining in a Member's Representational Allowance after the end of a fiscal year to be used for deficit reduction, and voted to cut MRAs by 11.4% this Congress, and by an additional 8.2% starting in January if Congress fails to reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion

TSONGAS VISITS TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ— Tsongas has made four visits to Afghanistan and two visits to Iraq since being elected. In 2009, she led the Congressional Delegation trip to Afghanistan and Iraq to visit with American servicemen and women as well as top U.S. generals, ambassadors, and local officials.

TSONGAS BILLS PROTECTING NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVIST HEALTH CARE BECOME LAW

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE— The FY 2010 Defense Authorization Act enacted into law included a provision authored by Tsongas to increase earlier access to military health coverage (TRICARE) for National Guard and reservists who are called up to active duty from the current 90 days to 180 days. This change would provide additional time for servicemembers to seek needed medical care, schedule minor surgeries, or resolve other conditions that could easily be addressed given enough lead time.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS— Bipartisan legislation which Tsongas introduced to help aid the recruitment and retention of skilled health care professionals in the National Guard and Reserves became law as part of the FY 09 Defense Authorization Bill. The new law raises the loan repayment ceiling for benefits available to those doctors, dentists, and other health care professionals currently in the Guard and Reserves, and to those considering such a career, so that they are competitive with similar repayment programs in both the private sector and active duty military. This legislation has a direct impact on the Congressional District where a medical unit is stationed in Methuen.

CHARLES DICK MEDAL OF MERIT— In recognition of her work on behalf of the National Guard and Reserve members, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas was awarded the Charles Dick Medal of Merit in 2010. When he presented her with the award, the Massachusetts Adjutant General said, “The MG Charles Dick Medal of Merit honors those who provide the legislative leadership that enables National Guard soldiers and airmen to meet their mission. Congresswoman Niki Tsongas' legislative agenda honors National Guard service by providing for health care at home; personal safety while at war; and dignity in retirement. I am honored to join the National Guard Association of the United States and the National Guard Association of Massachusetts in honoring her tireless and substantive support for America's citizen Soldiers.”

TSONGAS BILL PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN SERVICEMEMBERS BECOMES LAW— Tsongas introduced legislation that was passed into law to ensure that no gaps in health care service and coverage exist for our women serving in the Armed Forces. The Women’s Excellence of Care and Accessibility Review and Evaluation Act (WE CARE Act) directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a comprehensive review of women-specific health services and treatments for female servicemembers to ensure that women servicemembers have the same access to health care services as their civilian counterparts.

TSONGAS CHAMPIONS TAX INCENTIVES KEY TO JOB CREATION– Through letters, legislation, and testimony before key Congressional Committees, Tsongas has strongly advocated for extending tax credits vital to the economic growth of cities in the District and to the ability of Massachusetts businesses to create jobs. Tsongas has been a leading voice for extensions of Renewal Communities and Research & Development tax credits. The Renewal Communities program which has been used in Lowell alone to leverage over \$43 million dollars in private investment, resulting in over 192,000 square feet of rehabbed commercial space, and creating approximately 400 new jobs. In downtown Lawrence, Renewal Communities wage incentives have helped New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. maintain their manufacturing operations in the United States, the last athletics shoemaker to make sneakers from stitch to final product in the U.S. Tsongas has also worked to extend the R&D tax credit so that the innovative abilities of the many businesses located in the District that rely on this credit are not threatened.

SUPPORTING REDUCED ENERGY COSTS AT MANN ORCHARDS, CARLSON ORCHARDS, SHAW FARM – Both Mann Orchards in Methuen and Carlson Orchards in Harvard recently opened their new solar array which will cut energy costs for each farm by tens of thousands of dollars annually and was funded by state and federal grants which were obtained with help from Tsongas’ office. Lawrence-based Solectria Renewables built the converters for the solar array at Mann Orchards, making the project a prime example of the economic benefits of clean energy technology both in reducing costs and supporting emerging domestic industries. Likewise, Tsongas worked with the Shaw Family in Dracut to help them secure a \$18,000 tax credit to build their new bottling facility at the 104 year old farm. The grant allowed the Shaw family to install a geothermal heating and AC unit to dramatically reduce annual energy costs. Tsongas has been a strong supporter of federal tax credits like these which help businesses to reduce energy costs while simultaneously benefiting the environment.

TSONGAS SUPPORTS AMERICAN MANUFACTURING JOBS

MAKE IT IN AMERICA TOWN HALL–Tsongas hosted a town hall meeting with local employers and workforce development specialists to discuss ways to grow the domestic manufacturing base and promote policies that keep jobs in the United States rather than having them sent overseas. The town hall was held at the New Balance factory in Lawrence which employs more than 800 Massachusetts workers. Tsongas held the town hall to hear directly from employers about ways to support their efforts to keep jobs in the United States. Experts at Tsongas’ town hall all gave detailed input as to how we can nurture American manufacturing, how we can do a better job of training and retraining to meet the high-tech needs of employers, and how we can ensure that good jobs are available at every skill level.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA LEGISLATION–After hearing directly from her constituents, Tsongas championed and supported a number of initiatives, including eliminating tax incentives for companies that move their operations overseas and creating incentives for companies that return to manufacture here, as well as workforce training that takes advantage of the role community colleges can play in working directly with local employers.

TSONGAS STANDS UP FOR CONSUMERS

THE FASTT CHECKS ACT– After hearing from constituents about trouble accessing their deposited funds, Tsongas introduced the Faster Access and Shorter Transaction Time for Checks Act (FASTT Checks Act) which would provide consumers with the ability to access their deposited funds sooner. Under current law, a bank can place a 7-business day hold on checks over \$5,000 despite the fact that most checks are now processed electronically giving banks almost instant access to the funds being deposited. Prior to electronic banking, banks had reason to hold checks to ensure that payment would in fact be made by another bank. But in today’s world of e-commerce, when a check is cashed the funds

are transferred nearly instantaneously. Banks continue to use the seven day check hold rule to inflate their balance sheets, and earn interest on money that is not theirs. By shortening the hold time that banks are able to place on a check to two business days and counting Saturday as a business day, Tsongas' bill ensures that funds will be available to the customer in a timely manner, unless the bank has reason to suspect fraud or the account is repeatedly overdrawn.

CONSUMER CREDIT SCORES— After hearing from constituents who couldn't access their own credit scores—scores used to decide the amount of credit they would be given or the interest rates they would be offered on mortgages, car loans, or college loans—Tsongas offered an amendment enacted into law as part of Wall Street Reform to increase consumer access. Tsongas believes that a credit bureau should have to provide the same type of credit score to both consumers and lenders, or to not sell that type of score to either, placing consumers and lenders on a more level playing field. If a bureau chooses to sell a type of score to a lender, it must also make that type of score available to the consumer.

MENTAL HEALTH OF UAV OPERATORS— Tsongas successfully included a provision in the House-passed FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act encouraging all the services to perform mental health assessments of their drone operators. While drones have changed the nature of war and protect operators by keeping them off of the front lines, concerns have been raised about the mental health impact of sustained missions on operators.

iVETS BILL— Tsongas introduced the Improving Veterans' Electronic Transition Services Act (iVETS Act), which would encourage the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to create an internet based portal for veterans to access their records and benefits information electronically. Her bill would model the web-based portal for veterans after the Defense Knowledge Online system which all active duty military members use to access their Official Military Personnel File but which they lose access to once they become veterans. Veterans and their families have repeatedly expressed frustration with the cumbersome process they have to go through in order to transfer their military records and benefit information from military to civilian life. The web based portal that Tsongas' bill would create would provide unprecedented benefits to veterans. For example, if a servicemember received an Army Achievement Medal for their actions when their convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device, and as a veteran, they later start to experience TBI symptoms, the award citation – which would be part of their personnel electronic records – could help the veteran prove a service related connection and could expedite needed medical benefits. In response to this legislation, last year the Department of Veterans Affairs enhanced their legacy eBenefits web portal to allow veterans to use it to access their Official Military Personnel File.

TSONGAS APPOINTED TO AIR FORCE ACADEMY BOARD OF VISITORS— Congresswoman Tsongas has served on the United States Air Force Academy Board of Visitors since first being appointed by the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in 2008. The Board of Visitors consists of 15 members appointed by the President and Congress. The Board of Visitors is responsible for providing oversight of the morale, discipline, curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, academic methods and other matters relating to the Academy.

TSONGAS INITIATIVE TO HELP MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS MARRIED TO FOREIGN SPOUSES ACCESS THEIR TAX REBATE BECOMES LAW— After *Stars and Stripes* and other organizations began reporting that servicemembers married to foreign spouses were ineligible to receive 2008 stimulus checks because of a provision intended to prevent illegal immigrants from receiving checks, Tsongas spear-headed a joint letter from House members to the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee requesting that the glitch be addressed. Her remedy was included in the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 which became law on June 17, 2008.

THE STOCK ACT– In 2012, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (STOCK Act), of which Tsongas was one of the first sponsors was signed into law. The legislation would prevent lawmakers from using knowledge they obtain in their professional capacity for personal financial gain.

LIMITING THE INFLUENCE OF CORPORATE MONEY IN ELECTIONS– Congresswoman Niki Tsongas introduced a bill to protect taxpayer dollars entitled the No Taxpayer Money for Corporate Campaigns Act, which bars federal funds from being spent to influence the outcome of elections.

SSI SAVERS ACT– Tsongas has introduced bipartisan legislation to help low-income seniors who rely on the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program meet basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and other necessities. Current law requires seniors and the disabled to spend down almost all their retirement savings before they qualify for SSI, a policy which often impoverishes them and makes them solely reliant on the federal government. Tsongas’ legislation sensibly updates the savings and assets which seniors can retain when they need to go on SSI, encouraging greater savings among seniors and saving taxpayers money in the long term.

RESPONDING TO THE GULF OIL SPILL– In 2010, the House of Representatives passed the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources (CLEAR) Act, which constitutes Congress’ response to the BP oil spill. The CLEAR Act includes a provision originally introduced by Congresswoman Niki Tsongas as part of her Oil Spill Preparation and Protection Act, which would require oil companies to submit detailed plans on how they would contain and cleanup a worst-case scenario oil spill. The required plans would force oil companies to address potential catastrophic occurrences, and have in place contingency plans in the event that early attempts to contain a spill fail. Tsongas is a member of the Natural Resources Committee, which was responsible for drafting major portions of the CLEAR Act.

GROUNDWORKS LAWRENCE LEGISLATION– Creating green-space and public parks in urban communities is an excellent way to revitalize neighborhoods and further economic development in our cities. The City of Lawrence has worked extensively with Groundwork Lawrence to transform blighted areas of the city into usable community space. Tsongas introduced legislation to create a Groundwork USA Trusts Program that would provide grants of up to \$400,000 to local communities for development programs that address brownfields and blighted urban environments. The total authorization would be \$15 million for each fiscal year through FY2015, which would allow Groundwork USA to produce 5-8 new Trusts each year. Last year alone, every dollar that the EPA invested in GWUSA projects was leveraged to \$15 by local Trusts.

BARRETT’S FARM PRESERVED– Tsongas’ bill to protect Colonel James Barrett’s farm in Concord, was signed into law by President Obama in March 2009. The bill will allow this historic site, which was the impetus for the British march on Concord and Lexington, to be brought within the boundaries of Minute Man National Park, so that current and future generations can learn about the important role it played in the birth of our nation.

PROTECTING THE NASHUA RIVER AND DISTRICT RIVERS– Tsongas introduced legislation to help designate the Nashua River as a Wild & Scenic River by authorizing a study of the River by the National Parks Service. This classification would help preserve and protect this historic waterway while making it eligible to receive federal funding for further conservation efforts. Should the study favorably determine the Nashua River’s eligibility as a Wild & Scenic River, legislation to officially designate the river and implement the conservation plan would then be introduced in order to clean up polluted waters around the river, keep drinking water supplies clean, and protect the river for a variety of uses. Her bill has been approved by the Natural Resources Committee and is awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives.

INTERIOR SECRETARY SALAZAR VISITS LOWELL– At the invitation of Congresswoman Tsongas, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar visited Lowell for a tour of the Lowell National Historical Park, the nation’s first urban National Park. Tsongas urged Secretary Salazar to visit Lowell NHP to see a firsthand example of the important role that National Parks can play in both the economic development and cultural preservation of cities. Following the tour the Secretary commented that Lowell NHP could be "a model" for urban national parks throughout the nation, including in such cities as St. Louis and Los Angeles.

TSONGAS FACILITATES I-93 PROJECT BREAKTHROUGH– In 2010, Tsongas helped to facilitate a major breakthrough in the proposed I-93 interchange project that has the potential to create thousands of jobs in the Merrimack Valley. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood visited the district at Tsongas’ invitation and indicated his support for moving the interchange project forward. The Secretary facilitated an agreement with all parties on a final design of the interchange and the environmental review process is now underway. The I-93 Junction development area has one of the largest concentrations of employment in northeastern Massachusetts and is considered one of the economic development “hubs” for life sciences and high-tech companies in Massachusetts. Estimates for new job growth from the I-93 project are close to 10,000 employees, \$400-\$800 million in new payroll, \$30-\$60 million in new state taxes and \$4-\$6 million in local property taxes. Previously, Tsongas helped to obtain a \$712,500 federal appropriation that will be used for the design and construction of the new interchange.

DDG-1000 NAVY DESTROYER PROGRAM– Congresswoman Tsongas helped ensure that scheduled funding for the third ship in the DDG-1000 Destroyer program was not cancelled. This enabled the Navy to capitalize on the \$11 billion in research and development it has already invested in this pioneering program and will move the Navy's fleet into the 21st century. The DDG-1000 program is also an important economic driver for the Commonwealth and the country.

VISIT TO CAMBODIA– Earlier this year, Niki Tsongas led a visit to Cambodia at no charge to taxpayers. Lowell has the second-highest Cambodian-American population in the country, with approximately one-fifth of the population tracing their heritage back to southeastern Asia. Tsongas visited Cambodia to better understand the history that has shaped the culture for Cambodia-Americans and explore ways to further strengthen ties between the two countries. Tsongas meet with Cambodian political, business and nonprofit leaders and discussed how our nations can learn from and benefit each other.

FITCHBURG COMMUTER RAIL LINE EXTENSION– At the end of 2011, Congresswoman Tsongas helped to sign a project construction grant agreement which will enable substantial improvements to the Fitchburg MBTA Commuter Rail Line. The \$270 million project, which includes double tracking along the line, construction of a new Littleton train station, and an extension of the line to a new commuter rail station at Wachusett, will shorten commute times, improve service, and create jobs. The Fitchburg line currently serves 10,000 commuters daily through 18 stations over nearly 50 miles but is often plagued by delays. Four separate but interconnected projects along the line will alleviate line congestion, add new parking, and allow the line to reach additional riders.

TSONGAS PROVIDES FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOWELL

UMASS LOWELL NEW EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION CENTER– Tsongas helped secure \$5 million in federal funds for UMass Lowell’s New Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center. The 84,000-square-foot state-of-the-art research and academic facility is a hub for developing advanced manufacturing and other technologies: preparing students for emerging job sectors, fostering industry partnerships and offering cutting-edge research that could transform our

understanding of science, energy and medicine. The EITC will continue UMass Lowell's century-long history as an engine of innovation and an industry training ground.

HELPING MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOWELL REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (LRTA)

With strong support from Tsongas, the LRTA received \$2.5 million in reallocated federal funding for the reconstruction of the Gallagher Terminal Parking Garage. The LRTA will utilize the money to initiate construction on the 30-year-old Gallagher Terminal facility, creating a state-of-the-art parking garage. Tsongas also helped secure \$3.5 million in federal funds to install 1,900 solar panels on the roof at the LRTA's maintenance facility. The solar array will provide 99.9% of the power for the facility which will lower energy consumption and deliver cost savings to the city.

SUPPORTING THE CITY OF LOWELL AS NATIONAL MODEL FOR ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS TO HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Tsongas aggressively supported a \$5 million federal grant award from the Department of Energy's BetterBuildings program for the Carbon Neutral Downtown Park and Preservation District. The City of Lowell in partnership with the state's historic preservation office and the Lowell National Historical Park is using this grant to show that historic preservation and energy efficient building construction are compatible and is the first city in the country to take this approach. According to City Manager Bernie Lynch, "This project will put numerous people back to work, reduce the utility costs associated with our downtown real estate, help protect the environment, and reinforce Lowell's emerging image as a progressive community on the rise."

LOWELL RIVERWALK EXPANSION, CANALWAY IMPROVEMENTS—Tsongas helped secure \$712,000 in federal funds as well as a \$1,000,000 grant from the Department of Transportation for the expansion of the Riverwalk in the city of Lowell and for improvements to the downtown Canalway.

The federal funding will be used for the development of the "Mile of Mills" Riverwalk along Bridge Street which will increase pedestrian traffic, while supporting the City's long term vision for the Riverwalk.

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT

Tsongas helped to secure \$195,000 in federal funds that will be used to renovate the historic Rialto Building in downtown Lowell for use by Middlesex Community College. The federal funds will help accommodate the planned relocation of the college's performing arts and music programs to the Rialto Building, which will include classrooms and performance space for music and dance, exhibit and multi-purpose space. All of these educational activities serve not only students enrolled in courses at the college, but also the Lowell public school system, the National Park Service, and other public and private agencies and organizations with which the college regularly collaborates. The building offers approximately 11,000 square feet of space for MCC, and serves as the gateway into the center of the City.

LOWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL EXPANSION PROJECT—Tsongas helped secure \$428,000 for the Lowell General Hospital Expansion Project which is designed to enhance the hospital and provide contemporary, clinically efficient facilities. The green-design six-story expansion project includes a new emergency department, private rooms, access to outpatient services, and growth areas for surgical services. Lowell General Hospital is one of the community's most venerable institutions, contributing to the health, welfare, vitality, and economic success of the City. It serves more than a quarter of a million patients each year. In addition, Lowell General Hospital is one of the City's largest employers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT VIDEO SHARING (LEVIS) FOR THE LOWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Lowell Police Department received \$150,000 in federal funds secured by Tsongas to support Phase 1 of their Law Enforcement Video Sharing program. The program allows for video surveillance and

transmission of video data from remote sites, along with the purchase and installation of 14 new cameras in identified criminal hotspots to better ensure public safety.

LOCAL ASTHMA PREVENTION- Tsongas secured a \$425,000 federal grant that will be used to prevent asthma among children living in public housing in Lowell as part of UMass Lowell's Healthy Homes Initiative. In Lowell, 13 percent of all children and 20 percent of those in public schools have asthma, compared with 10.5 percent statewide and 9.1 percent nationally. Asthma disproportionately affects low-income families and minority communities and is one of only four such programs nationwide to receive these federal funds.

LAWRENCE

EVERETT MILLS— Tsongas worked to bring together National Grid and Soltas Energy, a provider of solar energy solutions, so that a rooftop solar array of 2,000 panels could be installed on the rooftop of the historic Everett Mills in Lawrence. Lawrence-based Solectria Renewables built the converters for the solar array, making the project a prime example of the economic benefits of clean energy technology both in reducing costs and supporting emerging domestic industries. The project created jobs in Lawrence and will provide clean, accessible and affordable power for the 35 diverse businesses at the Everett Mill.

NEW BALANCE AND POLARTEC – Tsongas has been a strong supporter of Polartec and New Balance, two of the largest manufacturing companies in the district. She has strongly advocated for the Renewal Community Tax Credit Program which was created to assist employers in low income communities. Both New Balance and Polartec were able to utilize the employee tax credit of \$1,500 per employee at their Lawrence manufacturing and warehousing facilities to keep jobs here and support the local workforce. Tsongas has also urged U.S. Trade Ambassador Ron Kirk to prioritize U.S. manufacturing and American jobs during trade negotiations in support of New Balance, the only domestic manufacturer of athletic footwear. And, Tsongas has helped secure millions in funding for the development of innovative protective military clothing which is made at Polartec.

FUNDS SECURED TO HIRE POLICE OFFICER IN LAWRENCE— Congresswoman Niki Tsongas helped to secure a \$750,000 COPS grant from the Department of Justice that will allow the Lawrence Police Department to hire 6 police officers. The City of Lawrence has struggled with rising crime in the face of significant budget shortfalls which have forced deep cuts to the police force. Tsongas has met with Police Chief John Romero on several occasions to discuss ways to bring federal resources to Lawrence for crime prevention and repeatedly lobbied the Department of Justice for the COPS grant that was awarded. In 2009, Tsongas helped to obtain funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that enabled the Lawrence Police Department to hire 7 officers.

FUNDING LAWRENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT— Tsongas helped to secure a \$6,622,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security allowing the Lawrence Fire Department to rehire 23 firefighters who were laid off due to budgetary cutbacks last year. The funds are also sufficient to hire 15 new positions at the department for a total of 38 positions.

MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY— Tsongas helped to secure \$392,000 for the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) which will help purchase fourteen new buses to serve residents of Lawrence, Andover, Haverhill and Methuen.

VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER IN LAWRENCE— With support from Congresswoman Tsongas, a new Northeast Veterans Business Resource Center opened in downtown Lawrence in 2008 which will

provide assistance to veterans who are starting their own business or looking for ways to grow an existing one. The Center, which is located at the Riverwalk Complex, is one of only eight such centers nationwide and will serve veterans throughout New England. The Center received \$750,000 in federal funds from the Small Business Administration which Congresswoman Tsongas helped to obtain.

UNION CROSSING PROJECT–Tsongas helped to secure \$743,500 in federal funds for the Union Crossing project in Lawrence which will transform a former textile mill along the Merrimack River into a mixed-use development to include family and workforce housing, commercial space and community facilities. Union Crossing is expected to produce approximately 200 new permanent jobs. It will also create an effective and innovative model for investing in older urban centers that combines best practices in both historic preservation and green building design to create a new neighborhood that is equitable, affordable and sustainable.

LAWRENCE GATEWAY PROJECT– Tsongas helped to secure \$166,000 in federal funds for the Lawrence Gateway Project (LGP), which is a series of integrated public and private sector investments designed to revitalize the city’s economic, environmental, residential, infrastructural, cultural and historical characteristics.

NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALLIED HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER– NECC’s new Allied Health and Technology Center will revitalize downtown Lawrence, and will help in the city better meet its educational, training, and economic needs by preparing more Lawrence residents for jobs in high-demand health care fields. Tsongas helped to secure \$381,000 for the The 44,000 square foot facility which will feature a Health Education Simulation Center, where health care students will receive hands-on experience in simulated environments such as a hospital intensive care unit and operating room, an ambulance, and a doctor’s office. The building will also include classrooms and computer labs and a Career Planning and Advising Center where students will receive academic and career counseling.

HELPING MERRIMACK VALLEY SENIORS AVOID HEALTH CARE FRAUD – Tsongas helped to secure a \$270,000 federal grant that Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (ESMV) will use to help elder residents of the Merrimack Valley avoid fraudulent Medicare scams. Since 1999, ESMV’s has administered a Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program which reaches out to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries to help them avoid, detect, and prevent health care fraud.

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT– Tsongas helped secure \$280,000 to help the Essex County Sheriff’s Department continue their “Towards No Drug Use” (TND) program which teaches drug abuse and violence prevention to students at high schools throughout Essex County.

HAVERHILL

HAVERHILL VETERANS HOUSING– With help from \$260,000 in federal funds from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, a program Congresswoman Tsongas voted to create, the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center (VNEOC) opened two new housing units in Haverhill for previously homeless Massachusetts veterans. The veterans that will live in the new dwelling on Cedar Street have worked with VNEOC to find employment and transition back into the community.

HAVERHILL INTERMODAL PARKING FACILITY– In 2011, the Haverhill Intermodal Parking Facility officially opened. The new garage provides an additional 315 parking spaces for the Haverhill Commuter Rail Station and nearby newly-renovated mill buildings. The presence of the garage in downtown Haverhill will significantly boost economic development and job creation. More than \$8

million in federal monies helped to fund construction of the garage including a \$475,000 federal appropriation that Tsongas previously helped to secure for construction of the garage.

Haverhill Bridge Tiger Grant– Congresswoman Tsongas helped secure a \$10 million TIGER (Transportation Improvements Generation Economic Recovery) grant for repairs to the Merrimack River Railroad Bridge in Haverhill. The bridge is used by Commuter Rail, Amtrak, and freight trains daily but is in need of improvements. The funding will update and improve the bridge in the short term and over the long term will ultimately relieve congestion on busy streets, connect smaller communities to major urban areas, reduce emissions, spur economic growth and create jobs.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE FOR THE HAVERHILL POLICE

DEPARTMENT– At the request of Congresswoman Tsongas, the Haverhill Police Department received \$400,000 in federal funding to update and replace its existing public safety communications system. Replacing handheld and cruiser radios will dramatically increase the department's ability to protect the citizens of Haverhill as well as provide a reliable lifeline for officers.

Solar Panels for the Haverhill Citizens Energy Efficiency Project– The Haverhill Citizens Center serves hundreds of residents every day, including many of Haverhill's elderly population. It houses Haverhill's Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Veterans Offices, Recreational and Youth Services Programs. The building suffers from tremendous energy inefficiency, yet its original 1960's design was supposed to capitalize on cutting edge energy efficiency measures, including solar and geothermal possibilities which were never realized. Tsongas secured \$238,000 to help renovate and install solar panels at the Haverhill Citizens Center, which may also be used as a model for an energy efficiency project that preserve original infrastructure.

Helping Haverhill Students Stay in School– Tsongas helped to secure a new \$700,000 federal grant that is helping Haverhill students to stay in school. The grant is funding a new program entitled Youth Engaging for Success (YES) that will help identify middle school students in Haverhill who may be at risk of dropping out and help them stay in school. The grant funds will also enable Haverhill High School to add staff to its existing support programs, a move that allows more students to participate in Haverhill's successful Jobs for Bay State Grads, the Success Academy and Haverhill High Alternative night school program. A YES summer school program to help address the transition from 8th – 9th grade will also be added.

METHUEN

Century Box Company, Methuen– Century Box Company is a second generation family owned business. In recent years, Century Box has struggled with the demands of meeting customer needs while operating in a undersized facility. The owners were aggressively recruited by two other states offering substantial incentives to relocate and were tempted to leave Massachusetts due to the constraints of the size of their facility. Congresswoman Tsongas worked with Polartec, the abutting land owner, to consider selling a parcel of land adjacent to Century Box to accommodate the 57,000SF expansion doubling the size of the building. The real estate transaction is scheduled for the Fall of 2012. Century Box is investing \$5.25 million in the building expansion and new equipment and will double the size of the workforce from 89 to 188 full time jobs. Congresswoman Tsongas' office facilitated meetings with the City of Methuen Planning and Development staff, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, Massachusetts Workforce Development and Massachusetts Development staff. As a result of these discussions the company received a 10 year TIF with the city valued at \$126,720 and an Economic Assistance Coordinating Council approval of \$1.1million in EDIP Investment Tax Credits.

METHUEN ROTARY PROJECT– Tsongas helped to secure \$900,000 in federal funds to advance the Methuen Rotary project, which will ease traffic congestion on I-93, Rte 110, and Rte 113 into Dracut, and will improve commuter safety. The project involves the construction of a series of short-term improvements and a long-term interchange reconfiguration alternative to provide temporary relief and a permanent solution to the traffic situation at the Methuen Rotary. On an average day, between 110,000 and 130,000 drivers on I-93, in the vicinity of the Exit 46 interchange, would directly benefit from the reconfiguration, as would numerous businesses and local residents.

SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES

AYER PARKING FACILITY– Former Congressman Marty Meehan secured \$3.2 million to build a new Ayer Parking Facility for both rail commuters and the thousands of visitors utilizing the Nashua River Rail Trail for recreation. However, when the state failed to provide the required 20% match, the federal funds were put at risk and Congresswoman’s Tsongas’ office immediately worked with Town of Ayer planning and historic boards, Montachusett Area Regional Transportation (MART) officials and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Community Development (EOHCD) to creatively finance the required 20% match. The site for the new garage was announced this fall.

IT UPGRADE FOR THE MAYNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT– At Tsongas’ request, the Maynard Police Department received \$150,000 in federal funds to support technical upgrades for a new public safety building. The town raised over 90 percent of the funds required for the construction of their new building - requesting the remaining 10 percent. One of the nine Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regional bunkers is located within the Maynard PD’s jurisdiction. Police officers have routinely responded to calls for assistance from FEMA, including routine patrols of the greater region and responding to suspicious vehicles.

LANCASTER SOLAR FIELD– Tsongas helped to secure \$500,000 in federal funding for a planned solar field in the Town of Lancaster. The field will be located on a capped former town landfill in Lancaster and will feature more than 4,500 solar panels, making it the largest such site in the state. The 831-kilowatt field will be used to offset Lancaster's energy use for its public buildings, as well as stimulate the local economy through investment and job creation. Additionally, this project will offset 878,000 lbs of CO2 emissions annually, and will produce approximately the same amount of electricity as 35,000 barrels of oil.

HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN– Tsongas helped to secure a \$95,000 federal appropriation for Horizons for Homeless Children (HHC) which operates a network of Playspace Programs in the Congressional District and throughout Massachusetts. These programs provide homeless children in shelters with the opportunity to benefit from developmentally-appropriate play opportunities, mitigating the harmful lifelong impact of homelessness on those children.

FY 10 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL– The defense appropriations bill passed by Congress and signed into law by the President contained \$14.2 million requested by Tsongas for major employers in the District. In addition to being a major economic engine in the region, these companies provide the technology and products that keep our troops equipped and our country safe.

SUPPORTING FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING FOR DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS– Congresswoman Tsongas has supported numerous federal grant applications bringing millions into the district in support of community development, small businesses, and first responders.

TSONGAS HOLDS MULTIPLE EVENTS EACH YEAR TO HEAR FROM CONSTITUENTS AND TO HELP THEM NAVIGATE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND OPPORTUNITIES

INNOVATIVE CITIES CONFERENCE– Tsongas hosted a Congressional policy hearing in Lowell that featured testimony from a series of experts regarding the economic growth and improved livability of small to mid-sized cities. The hearing was part of a three day innovative cities conference in Lowell that Tsongas helped organize. Tsongas, who has made the health and growth of the nation’s cities a major priority as part of her work in Congress, is using the recommendations made by the panelists at the hearing as part of her efforts to encourage the formation of a comprehensive national urban policy. Tsongas wants to ensure that small to mid-sized cities like those in the Merrimack Valley are included in national urban policy so that it is not focused exclusively on larger cities like Chicago, New York, or Los Angeles.

CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE– Since 2006, clean energy investments at the Department of Defense have increased by 200 percent, up to \$1.2 billion annually, and they are projected to surpass \$10 billion annually by 2030. This District is home to one of the largest concentrations of clean energy employers in New England. Tsongas recently brought together local clean energy companies interested in doing business with the Department of Defense to ensure that they are aware of new DOD greening initiatives and can compete for these contracts. The Defense Department is the largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels in the country using over 300,000 barrels of oil per day and 3.9 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year. Facing soaring energy costs, the military has also set a target of obtaining 25% of its energy from renewable sources by 2025.

TSONGAS HOSTS PUBLIC SAFETY GRANTS FORUM– Congresswoman Niki Tsongas has hosted several forums to help provide local first responders with the resources and information they need to secure public safety grants from the Federal and state government.

TSONGAS HOSTS AGRICULTURE ROUNDTABLE WITH DISTRICT FARMERS– The District is home to more than 800 farms, ranging from dairy herds to wholesale nurseries to apple orchards. Since taking office, Congresswoman Tsongas has made the agricultural economy in the District a priority. Most of these are family farms which face unique challenges in an ever changing agricultural climate. Congresswoman Tsongas regularly hosts roundtable discussions with District farmers to talk about issues affecting them and their businesses as well as policies that they would like to see enacted at the Congressional level. Tsongas has also toured local farms, helped to secure grants and other forms of federal assistance for farmers, and solicited their opinions when formulating federal farm and nutrition policies.

TSONGAS HOSTS JOBS FORUM IN LAWRENCE– Tsongas hosted a jobs forum in Lawrence with local employers, labor groups, and city and state representatives to solicit ideas and discuss polices needed to help drive job creation and reduce unemployment. The forum entitled: *Lessons from the Frontline: A Jobs Creation Roundtable* examined topics such as, what is working in the local economy, what are the opportunities and obstacles to promoting hiring in local communities, what role do tax incentives play in where businesses locate and whom they hire, and what should be done at the federal level to help employers create jobs.

HELPING ORGANIZATIONS NAVIGATE THE FEDERAL GRANTS PROCESS– Tsongas hosted a forum at UMass Lowell to help localities, first responders and non-profit groups take advantage of the stimulus funds and annual Agency funding distributed through formula and competitive grants. Participants in the forum heard from experts on topics such as navigating the federal grants process, best

practices for grant research and writing as well as strategies for collaboration and regionalization in the grants process.

SHARING NEW INFORMATION ABOUT HOUSING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES WITH DISTRICT CITIES AND TOWNS– Tsongas hosted a forum in Lawrence with representatives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to inform the cities and towns in the District of the federal resources available to help mitigate the harsh impacts of the current housing crisis and to help communities recover from the challenges presented by the growing number of foreclosures in these neighborhoods. Grant funding for municipalities were included in a significant housing bill passed by Congress and more than a dozen communities from throughout the District were able to participate in the Forum.

GROWING THE GREEN TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY– Tsongas hosted an economic development summit in Haverhill which brought together major local employers, community leaders, and economic development experts to discuss ways to grow green collar jobs in the District.

HELPING FAMILIES FACING FORECLOSURE– Congresswoman Tsongas’ office has also been a resource to hundreds of families who needed help modifying their loan or refinancing. To date, her office has helped over 800 families with loan modifications or refinancing. Tsongas has also hosted workshops for residents of the District who were worried about losing their homes to foreclosure. Housing councilors and other non-profit representatives present at the forums help families at risk of foreclosure access the assistance available to them which could help them remain in their homes.

ENSURING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS– Tsongas has hosted multiple financial aid roundtables bringing together state and local elected officials, higher and secondary education counselors, as well as representatives from local lending institutions to discuss issues related to higher education accessibility and affordability.

NONPROFITS ROUNDTABLE IN LAWRENCE– Congresswoman Tsongas hosted a roundtable in Lawrence with nonprofit organizations to talk about their needs and ways the federal government can provide support to them as they work to address issues like hunger and poverty.

CONGRESS ON YOUR CORNER– Shortly after her election, Tsongas started her Congress on Your Corner program which regularly takes her to local supermarkets and other high traffic venues in the district on weekends to meet face to face with constituents. Tsongas has made accessibility to the people she represents the hallmark of her office and spends most days that Congress is not in session visiting with the residents and communities that make up the district.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES AND ADVOCACY– Tsongas has opened three Congressional offices in the district in Lowell, Lawrence and Acton to assist her constituents in their interactions with the federal government. Tsongas also maintains regular office hours in the City of Haverhill. These include helping district veterans secure veterans benefits, assisting families facing foreclosure, helping seniors to resolve problems they may be experiencing with Medicare or Social Security, among many others.

HEALTH CARE TOWN HALLS & TELE TOWN HALLS– On perhaps the biggest legislative issue of the past several decades, Congresswoman Tsongas held four town hall meetings to hear directly from her constituents on health care legislation being considered by the House of Representatives. Congresswoman Tsongas also hosted nearly a dozen telephone town hall meetings on health care, as well as numerous meetings with seniors, physicians, hospitals, nurses and other health care stakeholders in the district.

E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM– Tsongas sends out a regular eNewsletter to more than 6,000 and counting residents to provide her perspective on legislation before Congress and to solicit opinions, ideas, and input from her constituents.

VISITING AND PARTNERING WITH THE MAJOR EMPLOYERS OF THE DISTRICT– Tsongas has visited countless local companies and major employers in the district to discuss ways to support them at the federal level. The District is home to pioneering companies like American Superconductor, New Balance, Raytheon, Nuvera Fuel Cells, Solectria and many others. Tsongas has always said that she can be a better advocate for the innovative work being done in the district when she has seen it firsthand.

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE– Soon after her election to Congress, Tsongas formed a Veterans Advisory Committee, which brings together local veterans, military families, elected leaders, veterans’ agents, and other veterans care representatives to identify ways to better serve District veterans and their families. Tsongas consults with members of the Advisory Committee when crafting legislation to assist veterans, such as the PTSD bills that she introduced in 2008 and legislation to accelerate the development of lighter weight body armor.