

ARMSTRONG COUNTY ILL-SERVED BY ENGLISH

In a press release issued today, Democratic candidate for Congress in PA-03, Dr. Steven Porter, stated that Armstrong County, part of the Congressional district, has been “ill-served” by his opponent, Republican incumbent Phil English.

“Eljer Plumbing has lost another 200 jobs. The company is one of the few manufacturers left in Armstrong, and the job loss has been due to labor costs,” Porter continued. Referring to an October 11th article in the Leader-Vindicator, Porter cited talks between Armstrong Commissioner Rich Fink and Eljer owner Sun Capital Partners.

“Eljer pays \$17 an hour,” said Porter. “Sun told Commissioner Fink that workers in China and other countries make about 50 cents an hour, and Fink responded, ‘We just can’t compete with that.’ As the people in Armstrong have said, because of tax breaks to companies that outsource as well as trade agreements like NAFTA, CAFTA, and WTO, ‘the chickens have come home to roost.’ And my opponent, Mr. English, has been a rock-solid supporter of these trade agreements as well as a supporter of over 20 measures in the Ways and Means Committee to allow foreign goods to enter the US duty-free.

“His votes are putting our citizens out of business,” said Porter, “and we need people in Congress who are going to change that policy. Because of English’s trade votes, the Department of Labor has stated that PA-03 has lost 9,700 jobs. With Eljer’s downsizing, it is now close to 10,000.”

Citing another problem in Armstrong, Porter noted that Allegheny River Lock #9 has been closed all summer because of needed repairs. “People have complained that English hasn’t even requested a fact sheet on the repairs from the Army Corp of Engineers, much less tried to get the \$100,000 needed to make the repairs. It is another instance of the Congressman failing to provide services to his constituents,” said Porter. “It really is time for a change.”

Dr. Porter’s positions on all of the important issues of this campaign can be found on his website (www.porter4congress2006.com).