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PORTER CITES HEALTH CARE ISSUE IN PENRECO NEGOTIATIONS

“It is impossible to escape the terrible impact which America’s health care crisis is having on our economy,” said Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic Congressional candidate from the 3rd district of Pennsylvania. “We see it once again in our own area in the current Penreco negotiations with Local 889. It’s no surprise that the big stumbling block there is the health care package.”

Speaking in a press release issued today, Porter again called for the passage of HR 676 to solve the nation’s health care problem once and for all. “By consigning health care to a market-driven process, the government is making it impossible for workers and employers to reach settlements because health care costs are rising much more rapidly than inflation and much more rapidly than either businesses or workers can handle. The results are impasses such as the one at Penreco or worse, the tragic exportation of U.S. manufacturing jobs to other countries. The recent exodus of GM plants to Canada (where health care is paid for by a national plan) is a perfect example,” said Porter.

“The solution is exactly the opposite of what incumbent Congressman English proposes. He wants the insurance industries and big medical lobbies to continue to run health care. And why not? They’ve given him over \$1.5 million in contributions over the years. They pay him off, so that’s who he works for. But the physicians of this nation, the professionals who ought to be running the medical system, want a different plan. They want HR 676, the bill Congressman Conyers has introduced in the House, the plan I support, the plan which makes universal health care affordable by taking the insurance industry out of the medical equation.

“Problems like the one at Penreco are not going to go away with guys like English at the helm. They will only get worse. When I am elected to Congress, I will join the fight to get HR 676 out of committee and get the 800-pound health-care gorilla off the backs of American business and American workers.”

Penreco’s facility located in Karns City is involved in the manufacture of specialty gels and lubricants from petroleum. The workers of Local 889 there plan a rally this Saturday, March 11th, at 12 noon. Dr. Porter will be one of the speakers.