

*Says resilient, innovative business leaders in southern Minnesota are the key to growing our economy*

Mankato, MN – Today, Rep. Walz visited Thin Film Technology Corporation in Mankato to highlight their entrepreneurial spirit and discuss tax credits for small businesses to create jobs and grow in the future.

“Our local small businesses power our economic engine and as we move forward with our economic recovery, we have to make sure they have the tools they need to succeed,” said Rep. Walz. “I am here today to get input from Thin Film and to hear their ideas for revitalizing our economy and creating jobs. Some of the best ideas for how to move our economy forward are coming from right here in southern Minnesota.”

“We thank the Congressman for coming to Thin Film today, and we appreciate his support to re-authorize the Small Business Administration's entrepreneurial development programs which would help small businesses in southern Minnesota and across the country. We also appreciate the Congressman's support for extending tax credits that make it easier for business to invest in new equipment,” said Tom Lietha, CEO of Thin Film Technology Corporation. “Through our company's history, we have seen some hard economic times, and we have had to rethink our direction and diversify our company. Now we're on a solid path and expect to be creating more jobs in the near future.”

Congressman Walz has supported initiatives that encourage small business growth by increasing access to capital, encouraging investment and job creation through tax credits, and increasing financial security through affordable loans. Earlier this year, Walz supported the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act, which provides payroll tax breaks for business that hire unemployed workers.

Thin Film is a leading provider of high performance electronic components for wireless, automotive, medical, military, data-communication and aerospace markets. They were originally owned by a Japanese company that tried to close Thin Film and move the company overseas. About 18 employees from the Mankato area were able to convince the parent company to sell them Thin Film and they rebuilt the company, keeping the jobs in our local community.