



BCT staff photo/DENNIS McDONALD

Republican congressional candidate Chris Myers speaks during a news conference on the farm of Joseph Darlington in Pemberton Township last week. Myers said, if elected, he would be able to pass legislation that helps businesses grow and create new jobs.

Myers vows to get down to business

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PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP — Republican congressional candidate Chris Myers touted his business background last week while receiving the endorsement of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

The NFIB is an advocate for small businesses across the country. In addition to lobbying efforts on behalf of businesses, the organization operates a pooled purchasing program for its members.

Myers, who is mayor of Medford as well

as a vice president with defense contractor Lockheed Martin, said his background makes him more qualified to help guide America through its current economic troubles than his opponent, Democratic state Sen. John Adler of Cherry Hill.

“We don’t have enough businesspeople in Washington,” Myers said, adding that one of his top priorities, if elected, would be to pass legislation that helps businesses grow and create new jobs.

“Any single job you create often helps create six or seven more for others in another business, and we’ve identified specific policies to create jobs and get business going,” Myers said Wednesday at a press conference announcing the endorsement.

The event was held at the Joseph J. White Cranberry Farm in Pemberton Township, one of the oldest cranberry farms in the country.

The farm’s owners, Joseph Darlington and his wife, Brenda Conner, are members of the NFIB. They complained that state regulations have made it difficult for the farm to expand and offer agritourism tours.

“We feel we’re the poster child of how state regulations can beat us,” Darlington said. “We don’t ask government to help us grow our business, but we do ask it to set out of the way so we can.”

“I’d rather trust a businessman than a

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career politician with my son's future," Conner said.

Adler's campaign manager, Mark Warren, said the NFIB endorsement of Myers was expected given the organization's past history of supporting Republican candidates.

"That's as surprising as George Bush endorsing him," said Warren, adding that Adler has picked up the endorsements of union, environmental and fishing groups.

Warren also attacked Myers for holding a Wednesday night fundraiser planed by Charlie Black, an adviser to President Bush during his 2000 and 2004 campaigns and a former lobby-

ist for Freddie Mac.

"Time and time again, Mayor Myers has turned his back on middleclass taxpayers," Warren said. "Now we find out that the president's top advisers and fundraisers are also among Mayor Myers' top advisers and fundraisers. It's really not surprising at all."

Myers responded that Black is an adviser for Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain.

"It's no secret I support John McCain and that I think John McCain would make a better president than Barack Obama," Myers said when asked about Black and the fundraiser.