

Sununu brings message to Rochester tech firm

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ROCHESTER — Sen. John E. Sununu's campaign made a stop Monday at eCoast Sales Solutions, a sales and marketing company catering to the high-tech industry.

The senator was treated to a tour of eCoast's 20,000-square-foot facility, located on Industrial Way, before addressing employees, focusing on his past experience in the private sector and how it translates to understanding how tax legislation and economic policies affect small business.

"Having that hands-on experience — hiring employees, training them, selling product — that enables me to keep New Hampshire's economy first in my mind in Washington," Sununu said.

One example Sununu gave to support this claim was his work on the Tax Freedom Act, which protects consumers from being taxed on Internet access, e-mail and similar services, in turn allowing more people access to any resources small businesses put on the Web.

"The Internet really surprised a lot of people in its ability to level the playing field for smaller firms and businesses," he said. "I thought that it would be better for our economy if we weren't taxing and regulating it."

Sununu also explained he is not a lawyer, as many politicians are, and his experience as an engineer for a New Hampshire company that dealt with HVAC systems taught him how to be a problem solver and to have foresight enough to see the longer term effects of an action.

His ability to examine the consequences of a bill or plan before putting it into place is something Sununu believes is a valuable skill he brings to Washington, pointing out that "a lot of the problems we're spending time on now in Congress are problems caused by bills that were passed 10 years ago."

Sununu also touched on economic issues facing the state and the country in his address, emphasizing the need to help businesses by keeping taxes low.

"The economy right now is weak, there's no question about it," he said. "But, in this kind of weak economy, it's even more important that we don't raise taxes because of the negative effects it could have on small businesses and their employees."

Sununu said he has been visiting and touring as many small businesses as possible over the last month in an effort to let small business owners know his positions on issues important to them and their employees.