



GOP Candidate Rob Simmons chooses HABCO to kick off campaign tour



February 1, 2010 - US Senate candidate Rob Simmons began his small business tour of Connecticut by stopping by HABCO on Monday. He toured the facility, and gave some prepared remarks on how to help small businesses grow and create jobs.

Simmons, a 37 year Army veteran, has a special interest in and understanding of products and services designed by companies to protect soldiers in the military. Since 2000, HABCO has designed and built 24 different ground support equipment and maintenance products for US military helicopters.

In 2005, HABCO designed and built an on aircraft tire cage used to prevent explosions of tires from over inflation. This was done in direct response to a soldier killed in Iraq in 2003. When HABCO faced red tape in the government to move forward on this purchase, Simmons provided advocacy in Washington for the cause.

Since 2005, HABCO has developed 3 other tire cages for the CH-47 Chinook aircraft, the UAV Sky Warrior, and a back shop tire cage used on a variety of military and commercial aircraft. HABCO would like to see a safety mandate for tire cages be recommended across platform, and develop an additional product line of tire cages to cover the US Armed Services fleet.

In remarks on HABCO related to the tire cage, Mr. Simmons commented: "The ingenuity and entrepreneurship of this small company, HABCO, has global applications for maintaining the safety of tire inflation on helicopters."

Company owner and CEO Kristin Muschett was happy to provide a starting point for the Simmons campaign. "I am glad to welcome Rob to HABCO. Rob has been an advocate for small business for years in Washington, not just as the flavor of the week, as it appears it is now. We need strong committed leadership for creating and sustaining policies that will encourage small business to grow and take risks, not to be looked at as tax coffers by the government."