



Congressman Rick Boucher

would like to invite you to a

Ninth Congressional District Conference

UNLEASHING THE CELTIC TIGER

**Southwest Virginia's Shared Heritage with
Ireland and Western Europe: Promoting
the Economy of Our Region Through
Collaborations in Technology, Commerce,
Education and Tourism**

**Wytheville Meeting Center
Wytheville, Virginia
September 15, 2008
8:30 AM**

Hosted by Congressman Rick Boucher

In Cooperation with

The Virginia Tourism Corporation
and
New River Valley Economic Development Alliance
Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership
Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Virginia Economic Bridge
Virginia Education Association
Virginia Tobacco Commission
Virginia's aCorridor
Virginia's Center for Information Technology
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission
LENOWISCO Planning District Commission
Mount Rogers Planning District Commission
New River Valley Planning District Commission
Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Planning District Commission
Bluefield College
Emory & Henry College
Radford University
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
University of Virginia's College at Wise
Virginia Intermont College
Virginia Tech
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Mountain Empire Community College
New River Community College
Patrick Henry Community College
Southwest Virginia Community College
Virginia Highlands Community College
Virginia Western Community College
Wytheville Community College
Wytheville Meeting Center



During the past two decades, the Republic of Ireland has experienced a remarkable period of economic transformation and growth, moving from an agrarian economy with a high unemployment rate to an economy so successful that it is known today as the Silicon Valley of Europe. The new Irish economy, termed by many “The Celtic Tiger,” is an outstanding model for our region, which shares close cultural ties to the Republic of Ireland, as well as similar values and work ethic.

On Monday, September 15, I am pleased to sponsor a Ninth District Conference titled “Unleashing the Celtic Tiger, Southwest Virginia’s Shared Heritage with Ireland and Western Europe: Promoting the Economy of Our Region Through Collaborations in Technology, Commerce, Education and Tourism.” During the course of the day we will explore not only our cultural and historical similarities, but also the steps taken in Ireland during the past two decades to achieve the outstanding success of the Celtic Tiger - steps that we may wish to emulate in our region.

The conference will be held Monday, September 15 from 9:00 AM until 2:15 PM at the Wytheville Meeting Center in Wytheville. I am pleased to note that The Honorable John Bruton, European Union Ambassador to the United States and Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, will be our featured speaker. After lunch, four roundtable discussions will be held chaired by leaders from across the Commonwealth in order to develop steps we may take in order to model on the success experienced in the Republic of Ireland.

I hope that you will be able to join me at this conference. Please feel free to share this information with others who may be interested in attending as well. There is no charge for attendance, and lunch will be provided. I look forward to seeing you in Wytheville on September 15.

*Rick Boucher
Member of Congress*

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Public Document

Official Business

*This mailing was prepared, published,
and mailed at taxpayer expense.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rip Baucher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

M.C.
PRSRT STD