

## New Mexico Big O Tires Franchisee Receives Congressional Visit

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October 10, 2005

Congresswoman Heather A. Wilson, of New Mexico's Congressional District Number 1, met with Paul Martinez, a Big O Tires franchisee, at his store located at 3321 San Mateo NE, in Albuquerque on Monday, October 3, 2005.

A couple of weeks ago, Martinez was among two dozen Big O Tires franchisees who attended Franchise Appreciation Days in Washington, D.C. He visited the offices of both New Mexico U.S. Senators and Rep. Wilson's office.

The legislative issues Martinez discussed with Rep. Wilson included: **The Right To Repair Act; Small Business Health Plans; Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act and Veterans Self-Employment Act.**

The Congresswoman was also provided a report of the ***Economic Impact of Franchised Businesses***. The study shows that franchising has a great impact on the U.S. economy. Based upon data from 2001, the study found that more than 760,000 franchised businesses generate jobs for over 18 million Americans, which equates to 14 percent of the private-sector employment. Franchise business also accounts for \$1.53 trillion in economic activity, which is 9.5 percent of the private-sector economic output.

As part of her visit she also experienced hands-on how a tire is changed and balanced with the help of Freddie Montez, the Big O Tires store local manager.

Martinez said, "My wife, staff and I were all delighted that Representative Wilson would take time from her busy schedule to visit our store and to discuss the issues that affect us as a small business and as a franchise. She was very kind and understanding of the issues and mentioned she would investigate them further." He continued, "It was very enjoyable to meet with her back home in Albuquerque."

Big O Tires serves over 560 franchised stores, primarily in the Western and Midwestern states, and also distributes tires and other automotive service products to Associated Dealers in Western Canada. Since 1996, Big O Tires has operated as a subsidiary of Memphis-based TBC Corporation.

TBC Corporation is one of the nation's largest marketers of automotive replacement tires through a multi-channel strategy. The Company's retail operations include company-operated retail centers under the "Tire Kingdom", "Merchant's Tire & Auto Centers" and "National Tire & Battery" brands and franchised retail tire stores under the "Big O Tires" brand. TBC markets on a wholesale basis to regional tire chains and distributors serving independent tire dealers throughout the United States and in Canada and Mexico. The Company's proprietary brands of tires have a longstanding reputation for quality, safety and value.



Congresswoman Heather Wilson from New Mexico Congressional District One learns by hand-on experience how to use a tire changing machine. She is assisted here by Freddie Montes, manager of the Big O Tires store at 3321 San Mateo NE in Albuquerque, NM.



Congresswoman Heather Wilson from New Mexico Congressional District One learns by hand-on experience how to use a tire balancing machine. She is assisted here by Freddie Montes, manager of the Big O Tires store at 3321 San Mateo NE in Albuquerque, NM.



Congresswoman Heather Wilson from New Mexico Congressional District One shares a laugh with Paul Martinez, franchise owner of the Big O Tires store at 3321 San Mateo NE in Albuquerque, NM.



Congresswoman Heather Wilson from New Mexico Congressional District One discusses various legislative issues with Paul Martinez, franchise owner of the Big O Tires store at 3321 San Mateo NE in Albuquerque, NM.