

**REPRESENTATIVE KIRKPATRICK JOINS SBA TO HONOR
SOUTHWEST WINDPOWER OF FLAGSTAFF
AS SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTER OF THE YEAR**

FLAGSTAFF, AZ – On Monday, April 13, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick will join Arizona District Director of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Robert J. Blaney to present Southwest Windpower of Flagstaff the SBA’s Small Business Exporter of the Year Award.

“Southwest Windpower is a leader in their field and an economic engine for northern Arizona,” said Rep. Kirkpatrick, Arizona’s sole representative on the House Committee on Small Business. “They have grown from operating out of a garage to being a model for small businesses across the country. Companies like Southwest Windpower show the potential of small business to drive our economy and to promote the innovations and technologies that will create jobs for America in the 21st century.”

“We are honored that Congresswoman Kirkpatrick will participate in the presentation of this prestigious award to help us recognize the achievements of one of Arizona’s most cutting-edge small businesses,” announced Robert J. Blaney. “Her support for businesses like Southwest Windpower is helping to encourage the growth of small business throughout Arizona.”

“This ceremony inaugurates a series of events that will culminate in Washington, DC on May 17, when Southwest Windpower will be recognized above all others in the country as National Small Business Exporter of the Year. An award of this stature is rare and is testimony to their endurance, commitment, planning, and success.”

Annually, the U.S. Small Business Administration honors Arizona entrepreneurs and small business champions for their contributions to the economy. Over 97 percent of the businesses in the state are small businesses and have proven, year after year, to be the greatest sources of the innovation, jobs and growth that is needed to fuel Arizona’s economy.

SBA’s Small Business Week awards celebrate and spotlight the entrepreneurial spirit and community activism that has long characterized the small business community of Arizona. As risk takers, innovators, and employers, these winners truly reflect how small businesses contribute to both the state economy and their local communities. The 2009 Arizona Small Business Week awards will be presented April 30 in Phoenix in the following categories: Arizona’s Small Business Person of the Year, Veteran Small Business of the Year, Women in Business Champion of the Year, Home-Based Small Business Champion of the Year, Minority Small Business Champion of the Year, Small Business Journalist of the Year, and Financial Services Champions of the Year.

The April 13 ceremony will be held at the Southwest Windpower headquarters in Flagstaff, 1801 West Route 66, starting at 1:45 p.m.

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