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Van Orden campaign: ICYMI: Derrick Van Orden, Rep. Jason Smith hold listening session with Eau Claire businesses

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PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WI – Yesterday, Derrick Van Orden and Rep. Jason Smith held a listening session with Eau Claire area businesses discussing the challenges they are facing due to the Biden economy. Unchecked inflation and surging energy costs are making it harder to do business across America, and small business owners are fired up to create change in Washington.

Take a look at some of the coverage from yesterday's event.

WEAU: Congressional candidate Van Orden visits Eau Claire Monday

Republican 3rd Congressional District candidate Derrick Van Orden held a listening session with small business owners in Eau Claire Monday.

Van Orden, who held the listening session at Chick-A-Dee's Family Restaurant, is running to fill Democratic Congressman Ron Kind's seat in Congress. Kind announced in August he will not seek re-election.

Van Orden said he wanted to hear more about how business owners are doing in a time when inflation is at 40-year highs. Van Orden said his plan to help stabilize the economy is to help the U.S. become more energy independent.

"When I go around the district and I'm speaking to people, I hear three things: gas, groceries and grandchildren," Van Orden said. "When people can't afford to fill up a gas tank and a grocery cart on the same day in the United States of America, that's

a problem. And it wasn't like that 18 months ago."

WQOW: Van Orden makes campaign stop in Eau Claire, talks economy and inflation

A Republican candidate vying to win the 3rd Congressional District made a campaign stop in Eau Claire Monday.

At Chick-A-Dee's Family Restaurant, Derrick Van Orden met with several local small business owners to discuss the state of the economy and how inflation is impacting them.

Van Orden said supporters have told him because of rising prices, they're worried about affording gas, affording groceries, and the future of their grandchildren.

He believes supply chain issues have been created by President Joe Biden's policies, particularly on energy.

Van Orden said in order to lower inflation, America needs to become more energy independent.

"We have to reinvigorate the ability for America to become energy independent," Van Orden said. "So every time, when you plant something in the field, it takes diesel, when you harvest it, it takes diesel, to get it to a processing facility, same thing. To run the processing facility, same thing. We have to lower energy costs."