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SENATOR TSONGAS TO VISIT WILLIAMSTOWN, PITTSFIELD, AMHERST, AND SPRINGFIELD

Senator Paul Tsongas will visit four Western Massachusetts communities Saturday April 7th. He begins the day in Williamstown where he will hold his fifth Senate "Town Meeting" of the year, then travels to Pittsfield for a luncheon with the Central Berkshire Chamber of Commerce and other area representatives. Amherst is the next stop for the Senator who will speak at a rally to protest apartheid in South Africa. After the rally, which is being sponsored by a five-college coalition, Tsongas will participate in a fundraising television auction for Channel 57 in Springfield.

Residents of the communities surrounding Williamstown, including Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, New Ashford, North Adams, Peru, Pittsfield, Savoy and Windsor are encouraged to come to the special "Town Meeting" to be held at the Mitchell Elementary School, 80 School Street, in Williamstown, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. At 10:00 a.m., Tsongas will meet informally with area media.

"Meeting with the people I represent gives me a feeling about what the people want from me," said Tsongas after his most recent Senate "Town Meeting". "They get a chance to tell me what is bothering them and I get a chance to tell them what I am doing about it," explained the Senator. The meetings are informal with residents asking questions about local, state, national and international issues.

During his campaign for the Senate, Tsongas pledged to hold "Town Meetings" in all regions of the state as one way of being accessible to his constituents. He began the practice of holding these open meetings when he was a Congressman and held his first one as a Senator in Springfield this February.

After the Williamstown meeting, Tsongas travels to Pittsfield where he will lunch with Mayor Paul Brindle, members of the Central Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, and other community representatives. The luncheon begins at 12:45 p.m. at the County Club of Pittsfield. Tsongas will meet with members of the Pittsfield area media at 2:00 p.m. for an informal news briefing.

Tsongas arrives in Amherst at 3:30 p.m. to speak at U. Mass. Amherst during a rally protesting apartheid in South Africa. Students from Mt. Holyoke, Smith, Hampshire and Amherst Colleges will also participate in the rally. Tsongas, who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia, has said he intends to continue speaking out against apartheid policies and against U.S. foreign policy initiatives which encourage apartheid.

Following the rally, Tsongas will drive to Springfield to help Channel 57 raise funds to continue their public television programming. Tsongas' final stop of the day will be in Boston, at the 10th anniversary dinner for Computervision Corporation of Bedford.