



News from the Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter of the **ESOP** Association

## Employee Ownership Moves America

### Support Bills S 1512 and HR 1244

The Promotion and Expansion of  
Private Employee Ownership Act  
of 2011

#### Current Supporters of HR 1244

Rick Berg – R/ND  
Betty McCollum – D/MN  
Kristi Noem – R/SD  
Eric Paulsen – R/MN  
Tim Walz – D/MN

#### Supporters of S 1512

Amy Klobuchar – D/MN

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### Congressional Visits to Local ESOP's



Congressman Erik Paulsen visits Walman Optical, Brooklyn Park, MN



Congressman Rick Berg visiting Dakota Supply Group, Fargo, ND

### Senator Amy Klobuchar Visits SJE-Rhombus

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, was a welcomed guest at SJE-Rhombus, a manufacturer of water and wastewater control solutions, on Monday, Jan. 10, 2011. Klobuchar was conducting a multi-site "Innovation Tour" across Northern Minnesota and stopped at SJE-Rhombus to learn more about the company's success with employee ownership, driving engagement, product innovation,



continuous improvement and global sales growth. Laurie Lewandowski,

SJE-Rhombus' CEO, said, "SJE-Rhombus is 100% employee-owned through an Employee Stock Ownership Trust (ESOT). The fact that the employees own the company stock means they have a vested interest in doing their part to make sure the company succeeds. This gives SJE-Rhombus a competitive advantage. Each employee-owner is a working partner, motivated to be acutely involved in the day-to-day operation of the business. This involvement and commitment has continued to be the catalyst for the company's success. The employee-owners take great pride in doing their best to provide quality products and service, and each employee is rewarded by the steady increase in value of SJE-Rhombus stock."

### Congressman Paulsen Visits AVI Systems, Inc.

Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN) visited the AVI Systems, Inc. located in Eden Prairie, MN on Friday, May 6th. Founded in 1974, AVI Systems is an audio visual systems integrator focused on building professional solutions for business, commercial, educational and government clients. As a 100% Employee Owned Company, AVI offers talented people the opportunity to become a part of a very successful and financially strong company that has been consistently growing for over thirty years. AVI took this opportunity to show the Congressman our product at work. All of the AVI regional offices participated by videoconference to hear their co-workers express how they feel about being part of an ESOP and a 100% employee-owned company, and to ask Congressman Paulsen for his continued support of pro-ESOP legislation.

