

OMAHA (KPTM)- This month, you may start noticing a little extra cash in your paycheck. It's all part of President Obama's stimulus package, which gives single workers an extra \$10 per week and working families an extra \$15 per week as part of a tax cut. For many Omaha small business owners, they're hoping you spend that money instead of putting it in your pocket. "Go to those small businesses that live and work in your community. Go to those retailers that own the business." Sally Cohen runs an internet marketing company in Omaha. She and other small business owners say they've felt the effects in the slumping economy. "Small businesses are very angry and upset because it's not something they've done directly. Not bad management, or something we've done wrong," said Cohen. Monday, dozens of business owners attended a town hall meeting put on by Rep. Lee Terry. Many wondered if the extra tax credit given to American workers will help turn small businesses around. "The fact we're pushing money out will help the economy. The issue is whether it's a Red Bull solution - will we get a buzz and then crash?" said Terry. "Right now, everybody is cautious. If you get \$10, you're putting it in your cookie jar or something," said Creighton Economics professor Ernie Goss. Goss says, if people spend their tax credit at local "mom and pop shops" instead of big retailers, Omaha could see an economic turn around by 2010. "If you can spend on U.S. goods as opposed to foreign goods - then spend on U.S. goods! If you can spend on Omaha goods versus Missouri goods, then spend on Omaha goods!" said Goss. Terry took a poll at Monday's meeting, and asked the crowd, "from a financial perspective, how do you feel about the future of your business?" A good 54% said they were confident, while 46% weren't so certain.

