



CITY OF CANTON

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Kevin R. Meade, *Mayor*

May 25, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

I am writing on behalf of my community, Canton, Illinois, in regards to the excise tax on medical devices that is part of the health care law.

Canton is a small Midwestern community, like thousands of others across America. We have suffered through factory closings, industry changes and people moving to find jobs. In the past couple of years, we have partnered with Cook Medical and they have brought two manufacturing facilities to our town that have turned this city around. Our unemployment rate has dropped by over a full percentage point and continues to go down. We are seeing a revitalization of our downtown and retail areas. While it does not sound like much, we are slated to have private developers build 16 new homes in Canton this year. We have not seen 16 homes built here in the last 15 years combined! We have enjoyed over \$100 million in new investment in our community from a number of sources, all of which can be directly attributed to Cook's decision to locate in Canton.

This device tax is taking the money that a company like Cook would use to bring jobs and opportunity to places like Canton, and it cripples economic growth at just the time this country needs that. In addition to the jobs, Cook also took a federal EPA brown field site and turned what was once a contaminated wasteland into a modern medical manufacturing site, one that both the federal and state EPA point to as a poster-child example of success in remediation. While I understand the intent of the law, the reality is that it is robbing us of more potential growth and much needed jobs. The bill to repeal this measure has 238 cosponsors, which should speak to the wide support for repeal.

I would invite you to come to Canton and see a community that was once slowly dying and is now actively thriving, thanks to one company in the incredibly innovative American medical device industry. We are proud of our turnaround and only ask that you free these companies from this imminent tax burden so that other communities like Canton can have the opportunity to provide its citizens with jobs and great future. The repeal of this tax will allow us to do that.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kevin R. Meade