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2/17/2012

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 25000

Dear Mr. President,

Recently, I asked small business owners across Illinois' 11th Congressional District what it would take for them to create one more job. The responses I received were from honest, hardworking Americans who are frustrated because Washington isn't listening to them. For the past three years, our government has taken the Washington-knows-best approach to job creation. This approach has led to 36 consecutive months of unemployment above 8 percent and more than 13 million Americans out of work. It's time Washington start listening to the men and women who do know best - America's small business owners.

The small business owners in my district are fed up with Washington politics. They are looking for those in Washington who will ease burdens when it comes to meeting payroll and paying the bills rather than create roadblocks and hamper their ability to grow and thrive. For the past three years, these voices have been ignored in Washington. I call on you to listen to what American job creators are saying and do what you were elected to do - represent the people.

By far, the biggest obstacle to job creation in my district is excessive taxation. Illinois has some of the highest taxes in the nation. The owner of a spa from Peru, Illinois writes that she has had to cut employees just to meet rising Illinois taxes. Other respondents talk about neighbors who took their businesses to Wisconsin, Indiana, or Florida - and how they are contemplating doing the same.

If Illinois is any lesson, America needs a fair, straight-forward tax code; one without the exemptions and credits that unfairly impact small businesses. Large corporations should not get lucrative tax waivers while small business are stuck paying the highest rate. It's time we encourage investment by creating a tax code that works for America's small businesses.

Many of the small business owners I represent describe how the rules are stacked against them. Resources that could be used to hire another employee, they say, are spent on meeting an endless barrage of regulations and red tape. The owner of an electrical contracting business from Crete, Illinois describes how regulations set in place over the last three years have had a "chilling effect" on him and his customers. American small business owners do not need more regulation.

Instead of focusing on creating more rules, Congress should concentrate on enabling businesses to grow.

The biggest and most burdensome regulation impacting Illinois small business owners is the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This law has barely taken effect and already small business owners from my district are seeing their health care costs sky rocket. The owner of a cleaning company in Minooka, Illinois reports that the new health care law will force him to lay-off all of his part-time employees. I urge you to work with the House to reform this law in order to untie the hands of America's innovators so they can put their time and resources into creating jobs.

Above all, Illinois small business owners desire certainty. "Give us a stable, predictable business environment" asks the owner of a bank from Kankakee, Illinois. But instead, the Senate has relied on one-time spending bills and stop-gap measures and has failed to pass a budget in over 1000 days. How can business owners plan for the future when America's economic policies change month to month? We need policies that promote a long-term goal of job growth and debt reduction to instill confidence needed for job creators to hire. The House has passed over 30 jobs bills to reduce regulations and promote certainty; it's time the White House and the Senate act on behalf of America's small business owners.

The policies of the past three years have failed to create an environment that enables job creation. As a school superintendent from my district writes, "It's time for the Americans, who were elected as a representative government of the people, to make the tough choices and leave our children with greater opportunity than we were given."

I agree. I urge you to take the advice of the hardworking men and women from Illinois, your home state, who know best how to get Americans back to work.

Since coming to Congress in January 2011, my freshmen colleagues and and I from Illinois have taken a direct approach to change the Washington-knows-best agenda by talking to those who actually do know best about what it will take to get Americans back to work and our economy moving: small business owners. Mr. President, folks throughout the 11th District want less regulation, lower taxes, a reformed tax code, and repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The time to act is now.

My question to you is - Will you listen to your constituents and Illinois job creators and work with us to reduce the burdens hampering economic growth?

Sincerely

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress