

health care legislation had a limited amount of money to work with. But his company's premiums rose 15 percent this year, and it's a struggle to keep paying.

To get the most out of the new federal credit, Hoffman said he'd have to cut his work force to 10 employees and slash their wages.

"That seems like a strange outcome, given we've got 10 percent unemployment," he said.

DEAR MR. WYATT: I am contacting you as I believe you are the individual who assists Sen. Grassley on tax matters connected to his Senate Finance Committee position.

I am writing you to comment on the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit.

Some brief background about our company:

We are a small manufacturer of abrasives in Wilton, IA, currently employing 17 full-time people.

Our major competitors are the Chinese, Korean, and Japanese sandpaper manufacturers and the recession has hit us hard.

We provide some of the following historical benefits to our employees:

We pay 100% of all employees' health insurance premiums;

We provide \$40,000 of life insurance to each employee;

We contribute approximately 14% of each employee's compensation into a profit-plan for their retirement;

Paid vacation;

Approximately 2 weeks paid time off during Christmas which does not count against an employee's vacation time;

What the recession has done to us:

Like many small businesses, we are losing money;

This has caused us to hire some workers through a local temporary business to replace full-time employees as we have turnover and as we try to expand into other areas to keep our business going;

For the last 2 years we have only been able to contribute the 3% safe harbor to the profit-sharing plan (for at least the prior decade we contributed the full roughly 14% of compensation to the profit-sharing plan);

We were forced to change the safe harbor profit-sharing contribution from a 3% mandatory to a matching type plan since a few of the temporary workers will have met the 1,000 hours/12 month rule—essentially punishing the full-time work force as we don't have the discretionary cash to make the contributions for the temps (a whole other tax issue for small businesses); and

We have continually had to reduce some health benefits (via increasing deductible to \$1,000; however, we continue to pay 100% of the premium cost).

Now back to the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit.

Early on I had high hopes that the credit would be quite helpful in defraying the health care premium costs. We currently pay \$11,410.39 per month in Wellmark BCBS premiums (nine on the single plan at \$413.67/month and eight on the family plan at \$960.92/month) for a total annual premium cost of \$136,924.68; and this is before anyone gets sick as we self-insure for the co-insurance. Our annual premium increase will be communicated to us by Wellmark about August and I anticipate another 20+% jump.

However, now some of the details of the credit are leaking out. Today I received the attached letter from our CPA firm, RSM McGladrey. I point you to the limitations and phase-out of the credit. Are you kidding me? By the time I gather all the required information, pay RSM McGladrey to calculate all the phase-outs, the resulting credit will not even cover the expected annual premium increase from BCBS!

What small business is this helping? This is about like all the back to work credits, or whatever they are called, which we concluded with RSM McGladrey are not worth the manpower costs to fully investigate and gather the information.

This credit is worthless. If Congress thinks this is going to encourage small businesses to keep providing health care for their employees, they are grossly mistaken. It just isn't meaningful enough to even enter into the equation in making a decision of what to do for my employees.

Effective today, we can no longer hire someone and provide them with subsidized health insurance beyond what is required by law. We hope to continue with existing employees, but clearly, with what little bit I know about the Health Care Act, come 2014 we are dropping our health plan; if not sooner.

I would hope as Senator Grassley's Finance Committee tax assistant, someone who would understand "the devil in the details", you will pass on to him my frustrations. Such frustrations with respect to the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit being, but not limited to: (1) not well thought out or discussed; (2) ridiculously complex for a small business to understand and implement; and (3) once again, Congress' over selling/promising the benefit of.

I would greatly appreciate if you would convey my thoughts on this matter to Senator Grassley to help him understand what is happening with small business on this issue.

Sincerely,

STEVEN D. YEATER,  
Co-Owner.

#### SPRINGFIELD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the centennial of the town of Springfield in my home State of Idaho.

On September 13, 1910, the County Commission of Bingham County approved a plat plan for the town-site of Springfield. It was an ambitious vision of a city on the shores of Springfield Lake—a body of water created years earlier to supply irrigation water from Danilsen creek. The area was a popular stopping place on Goodale's cutoff along the Oregon Trail.

In Springfield, 1910 was a busy and exciting time. Water from the Aberdeen-Springfield Canal reached Springfield. The Oregon Short-Line railroad came through and provided service to the community. And in June, a group of women organized the Springfield Domestic Science Club with a focus on community service.

The club quickly became a force in the community, establishing a hot lunch program at the local school and creating and managing the Springfield Cemetery, something members did until 1946. The club also sponsored many educational, cultural and entertainment events.

The Aberdeen-Springfield Canal was a major asset to the area. Not only did it provide much-needed water to the surrounding agricultural land, it provided jobs for many of the early settlers. The canal, begun in 1895, was dug using horse-drawn equipment and manual labor.

Today, the canal is a tribute to private enterprise. No government money was used during its construction. It is owned by its shareholders under a Carey Act corporation and is a "not for profit" organization, which financed it by the sale of shares in the company. The canal was completed at a cost of about \$886,000, irrigates about 63,000 acres of field and helps produce crops valued at roughly \$140 million each year.

On August 28, 2010, the Springfield community will honor its early pioneers with a centennial celebration. During the festivities, a monument in honor of the early settlers will be unveiled. The monument identifies those settlers who formed the backbone of the community by building the canal, operating the markets and shops and organizing the schools and churches. The names of these early pioneer families with the vision of seeing the desert bloom are:

Anderson, Baird, Bedwell, Berg, Blackburn, Bradley, H. Chandler, W. Chandler, Criddle, Cushman, Edwards, Evans, Gravatt, Grover, Hawker, Holland, Houghland, Judge, Line, Leach, Lloyd, Lofgreen, Loomis, Parmalee, Reid, Rupe, Sainz, Sellers, Shelman, Stoddard, Stufflebean, Snyder, Sommercorn, Thurston, Wells, Whyte, Willis.

Although the present day Springfield town-site did not quite live up to the vision laid out in the original plat, those living in the community strive to honor their heritage. Out of that sturdy pioneer stock have come doctors, lawyers, politicians, farmers, ranchers, chemists, accountants, educators, firemen, homemakers, artists, laborers, mechanics, business owners, civil servants, religious leaders and military servicemen.

I congratulate the people of Springfield on this occasion and pay tribute to those pioneers and others like them across our land, who, with vision, determination and hard work, created what we now enjoy.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARK KOSTER

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and recognize Mark Koster. This month, the Senate will bid farewell to one of the unsung heroes of this body. Mark, an associate counsel in the Office of Senate Legislative Counsel, is retiring and concluding his career on Capitol Hill.

Over the last two decades, there is hardly a major Federal education law that doesn't have Mark's imprint. Mark's areas of focus have included higher education, special education, career and technical education, literacy, elementary and secondary education, and a number of early education programs. Mark has more bipartisan legislative accomplishments than many Members of Congress.

Mark has made certain our ideas are drafted into legislation with technical precision, and his dedication to his