

**JOE WALSH**

8TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



WASHINGTON OFFICE:

432 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3711

[www.walsh.house.gov](http://www.walsh.house.gov)

DISTRICT OFFICE:

50 EAST GRAND AVENUE  
FOX LAKE, IL 60020  
(847) 973-9341

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TAX, AND CAPITAL ACCESS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1308**

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Office of Governor Patrick Quinn  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Speaker Michael Madigan  
300 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Senate President John Cullerton  
327 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn, Speaker Madigan, and Senator Cullerton:

Under your watch, Illinois has ceased to be a business-friendly state. High individual and corporate tax rates along with unnecessary and burdensome regulations have crippled Illinois businesses and forced them to move elsewhere. Illinois has lost 125,700 jobs this year and its private sector job growth has declined by over seven percent. Illinois has the third highest corporate tax rate in the country and is losing jobs to more business-friendly states. As the leaders of the Illinois state government, it is your responsibility to reverse these job-killing policies and encourage businesses not just to remain in Illinois, but to relocate to Illinois as well.

Sears Holding Corp.'s possible relocation is a prime example of the damage that your anti-business policies have done. Sears has been located in Illinois for over 100 years and has 20,000 employees, 1,100 contractors, and 9,000 vendors statewide. Yet, the business environment under your watch has become so damaging and so destructive that the company has discussed uprooting itself and moving to an entirely new state. Sears is not the first Illinois business to consider such a move either.

At least, by trying to make a deal with Sears and keep them in Illinois, you have admitted that Illinois' corrosive business environment is the problem. Congratulations, the addict has finally acknowledged he has a problem.

But, as chairman of the House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, I would like to ask what you are planning to do to help Illinois' other businesses, particularly its small businesses, that are equally as damaged by your job-killing policies, but do not have the influence in Springfield that Sears has?

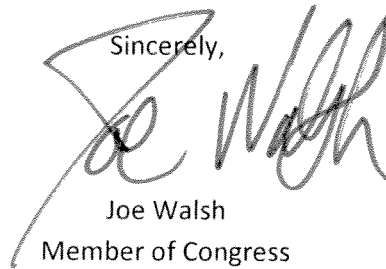
Sears is not the only business in the state struggling with your anti-businesses policies. You should not be playing favorites by raising taxes on everyone, but then making special deals to exempt a few particular businesses from paying those taxes. You need to eradicate all the unnecessary taxes and regulations with which you have burdened all Illinois businesses and create a better business environment for everyone. Not only will that benefit Sears more in the long run, but it will also work to the greater benefit of all of Illinois' businesses and families.

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Let me reiterate that Illinois has the third highest corporate tax rate in the country. That fact alone is driving businesses to other states. There is no way around that. On top of that, you have raised individual income taxes by 66% this year. Most small businesses pay taxes at those individual rates, which means you have created another burden to add to the pile that is already crushing Illinois small businesses. Small businesses are America's most effective job creators, but they cannot create jobs in Illinois while you're punishing them with higher tax rates.

As a first step, I suggest that you immediately cut taxes on all individuals and businesses. That is a simple straightforward way to start creating a business-friendly environment in Illinois. It will keep Sears in Hoffman Estates and will help all the other businesses struggling in Illinois stay in state, get on their feet, expand, grow, and create jobs. America needs to know that Illinois is serious about job creation and that this is the best place to raise a family and start a business – and I want to work with you in any way I can to do this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Walsh". The signature is stylized and written over the printed name and title.

Joe Walsh

Member of Congress