

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2010

Mr. Todd Bisping
Manager, Compensation and Benefits
Caterpillar Inc.
100 NE Adams St.
Peoria, IL 61629-1465

Dear Mr. Bisping:

We write to bring to your attention concerns regarding Caterpillar Inc.'s exclusive relationship with Walgreens and Wal-Mart and its impact on our constituents and their local, community pharmacies. Together, our districts represent almost 96 independent pharmacies that support over a thousand employees.

We are grateful to Caterpillar's vital role throughout Illinois, across the U.S. and in the global economy, and applaud your efforts to continue to find innovative ways to increase quality and value for Caterpillar health plan enrollees while reducing costs.

We are concerned that patients who rely on their local neighborhood pharmacy may lose access to prescription services because of Caterpillar's new employee prescription drug plan. Our constituents will be forced to switch pharmacies and in some cases travel great distances to the nearest large chain drug store. We understand Caterpillar's contract with Walgreens and Wal-Mart expires in 2012 and urge you to allow the participation of many more independent, local pharmacies well before these contracts expire.

It is important that we retain independent community pharmacies in our neighborhoods, especially in rural areas. Sometimes they are the only health care provider for miles around. Also, independently-owned pharmacies are price competitive with large chains and provide unmatched service and high-quality care.

For these reasons, we are confident that given the opportunity, these locally owned pharmacies could help Caterpillar reduce its prescription drug costs, while improving the health of your employees and retirees. We thank you for continuing discussions to find ways to create a more comprehensive network that would include more independent pharmacies as soon as possible and look forward to working together to hold a stakeholders meeting in the near future to help achieve this goal. As you can imagine, in this tough economic climate, community pharmacies cannot afford to lose their Caterpillar customers and be expected to thrive in our communities. We will be more than happy to help facilitate further dialogue.

We appreciate your strong consideration of these requests and look forward to working together to achieve what we believe is our shared objective of lowering healthcare costs while providing our constituents and your employees with quality care.

Sincerely,



DEBBIE HALVORSON
Member of Congress



PHIL HARE
Member of Congress