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COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

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August 3, 2011

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear President Obama:

As Co-Chair of the House Medical Technology Caucus, I am writing you today to invite you to meet with leaders in the medical device industry during your upcoming visit to Minnesota.

Minnesota has long been an industry hub and home to some of the largest medical device firms in the country. The industry is unique in its ability to improve the quality of life for billions of people worldwide with life-saving innovation and high-paying jobs.

However, your State of the Union pledge to “out-innovate” the rest of the world is starkly at odds with the medical innovation tax - the \$20 billion excise tax on medical devices - introduced in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Though not yet implemented, this tax is already giving American manufacturers a severe case of heartburn. Last week Boston Scientific, which has a sizable presence here in Minnesota, announced plans to lay off 1,300 employees worldwide and expand their operations in China because this tax threatens their ability to grow here in the United States.

This industry is a true American success story. During your trip to Minnesota, I urge you to take the time to learn firsthand how the innovation tax, as well as the increasingly unpredictable FDA device review processes, are threatening 30,000 Minnesota medical technology jobs and the development of life-saving innovations for patients. I would be happy to arrange for you to meet with representatives of these companies during your upcoming trip so that we can prevent further job loss. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erik Paulsen".

Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress