CITY OF Tulsa
A New Kind of Energy

Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JUL 24 2013

July 9, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

On behalf of the citizens of Tulsa, I thank you for postponing penalties against employers under the Affordable Care Act. Anxiety and confusion about the Affordable Care Act is high among employers and this postponement provides some relief to our business community.

Like most Tulsans, I am deeply concerned about the Affordable Care Act and its impact on the economy. Due to the high cost and the continuance of uncertainty coming out of Washington, D.C., business owners will not invest in new infrastructure or create jobs and increase wages. I encourage you to permanently drop this business mandate.

For the government of the City of Tulsa, the Affordable Care Act will cause a five percent increase in our FY 2013-14 health insurance budget. Of the nearly $20 million we spend on health coverage, our financial team estimates that we will pay $1 million to comply with the Affordable Care Act. With declining city revenues, this is devastating to an already tight budget. That diversion of revenue would otherwise be spent for police and fire protection and infrastructure investment. Core services for our tax payers are being negatively impacted.

As you can see, the impact of the Affordable Care Act will have a negative effect on not only business owners but taxpayers as well. I encourage you to find a solution based on sound, fiscally conservative principles. Increasing our local taxes and decreased core services are not prudent options.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Best regards,

Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.

Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.
Mayor

cc: The Honorable James Bridenstine, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable James Inhofe, United States Senate
The Honorable Thomas Coburn, United States Senate

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