



City of Peoria Office of the Mayor



January 31, 2017

Statement from Mayor Jim Ardis Regarding Caterpillar Inc. Announcement

Despite the announcement today, we continue to have confidence in our community and confidence in the great leadership we have throughout greater Peoria.

Our community will continue to look for ways to expand our economy. Peoria began as an agricultural town, then the nation's distillery, and into a manufacturing giant.

Some people do not realize that healthcare is now the largest employment sector in greater Peoria. We are very thankful for this growth and stability. There are over 700 healthcare-related businesses that employ over 32,000 people-18% of jobs in the greater Peoria area.

We have an active start up presence, creating jobs in new sectors every day. As a community, we have a resiliency that is second to none. Our focus is on the whole region and ways we can grow this economy. We hold our current and future employers, and all of our citizens with the same weight as Caterpillar Inc.

While we cannot control what happens on the global stage, we can work together to strengthen Peoria. Caterpillar is moving 300 executive positions to Chicago, but we are going to hold them to their word that 12,000 jobs will remain in the greater Peoria region and that Caterpillar will remain a huge presence – as an employer and as a civic and philanthropic leader.

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