



Cardinal Fastener files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from creditors

By **John Funk, The Plain Dealer**

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Cardinal Fastener & Specialty Co., the Bedford Heights bolt-maker that became a supplier to the U.S. and European wind turbine industry in 2007, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Thursday and suspended operations.

Company president John Grabner, in an emailed statement, said the voluntary filing was necessary "largely as a result of an impasse in negotiations with Wells Fargo, our primary lender, regarding working capital financing."

He said the company continues is strong growth in revenue and remains profitable on an operating level.

"We have been working with our lenders to secure more flexible working capital arrangements for some time and would certainly have preferred to keep this out of the courts, but this action ultimately provided an appropriate forum to restructure and provide for our future growth," Grabner said.

Jeff Grabner, vice president and head of the company's wind business, **said earlier this week** that Cardinal had been losing business to European parts makers who had underbid Cardinal and had reduced its workforce from 65 a year ago to about 50.

Cardinal's complaints and the complaints of other wind chain supply companies prompted **GLWN** (Great Lakes Wind Network) to call a **national conference** here on July 13 and 14 to find a way to help U.S. suppliers.

Ed Weston, GLWN's director, said Cardinal is not alone. "I have spoken with three Cleveland companies recently, all of whom lost business or are facing an imminent financial threat," he said.

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President-elect Barack Obama walks with Cardinal Fastener and Specialty Co. president John Grabner as he tours the Bedford Heights plant, makers of bolts for wind turbines, in 2009.