



September 12, 2017

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Orrin Hatch
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Kevin Brady
House Ways & Means Committee
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Chairman Hatch, and Chairman Brady,

The undersigned organizations appreciate your work to lead the country toward a commonsense tax code that does not impose a destructive double or triple tax at death. We support the inclusion of full and permanent repeal of the federal estate tax as part of comprehensive tax reform for these reasons:

Repealing the death tax would spur job creation and grow the economy. Many studies have quantified the potential job growth that would result from estate tax repeal. Last year the Tax Foundation found that the US could create over 150,000 jobs by repealing the estate tax. A 2012 study by the House Joint Economic Committee found that the death tax has destroyed over \$1.1 trillion of capital in the US economy – loss of small business capital means fewer jobs and lower wages. Lawrence Summers, former Secretary of the Treasury under President Clinton; Alicia Munell, member of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors; Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate for economics; and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former CBO Director have all published work on the death tax's stifling effect on job growth and the economy as a whole. Earlier this year over 700 economists, including 4 Nobel Laureates, joined Milton Friedman's open letter calling for death tax repeal.

The death tax contributes a very small portion of federal revenues. The estate tax currently accounts for approximately one half of one percent of federal revenue. There is a good argument that not collecting the estate tax would create more economic growth and lead to an increase in federal revenue from other taxes. A 2016 Tax Foundation analysis found repeal of the death tax would increase federal income taxes by \$145 billion over 10 years using a more realistic, "dynamic" economic analysis. In addition, the death tax forces family businesses to waste money on expensive insurance policies and estate planning. These burdensome compliance costs make it even harder for business owners to expand their businesses and create more jobs.

A super-majority of likely voters support eliminating the death tax. Poll after poll has indicated that a super-majority of likely voters support repealing the estate tax. Typically, two-thirds of likely voters support full and permanent repeal of the death tax. People instinctively feel that the estate tax is not fair. A national NPR poll conducted by Ipsos in April of this year showed that 76 percent of Americans supported repealing the death tax.

The death tax is unfair. It makes no sense to require grieving families to pay a confiscatory tax on their loved one's nest egg. Far too often this tax is paid by selling family assets like farms and businesses. Other times, employees of the family business must be laid off and payrolls slashed. No one should be punished for fulfilling the American dream.

Repeal is supported by majorities in both chambers. In April 2015 the House of Representatives passed the *Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015* (H.R. 1105) with bipartisan support 240-179. Similarly, in 2016 the Senate passed an amendment (S. Amdt. 607) calling for repeal of the estate tax as part of its FY2016 budget vote-a-rama; the amendment received 54 bipartisan votes. These votes show support for repeal from a bipartisan majority in the House and Senate.

The negative effects of the estate tax make repeal the only permanent solution for family businesses and farms. Estate tax repeal should be a key pillar of any comprehensive tax reform plan. We thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.

Signed,



AMT – The Association For Manufacturing Technology



Food Marketing Institute



Agricultural Retailers Association



Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International



National Association of Electrical Distributors



National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association



Financial & Security Products Association



American Supply Association



National Cotton Council of America



International Franchise Association



National Grocers Association



Associated Equipment Distributors



ALEC Action



Hardwood Federation



National Confectioners Association



Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association



American Trucking Associations



Institute For Liberty



Association of Mature American Citizens



Air Conditioning Contractors of America



Americans for Tax Reform



Forest Landowners Association



Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.



National Association of Home Builders



Global Cold Chain Alliance



American Commitment



Log Cabin Republicans



Consumer Action for a Strong Economy



National Insulation Association



North American Meat Institute



Metal Construction Association



Truck Renting and Leasing Association



Council for Citizens Against Government Waste



AmericanHort



Mason Contractors Association of America



Coalition of Franchisee Associations



Industrial Minerals Association - North America



International Sleep Products Association



National Taxpayers Union



Gases and Welding Distributors Association



NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association



Arizona Free Enterprise Club



ISSA—The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association



National Marine Manufacturers Association



National Electrical Contractors Association



PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION®
Best People. Best Practices.®

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association



THE ASSOCIATION FOR HOSE AND ACCESSORIES DISTRIBUTION

NAHAD – The Association for Hose and Accessories Distribution



American Sheep Industry Association



Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America



National Grange



Associated Wire Rope Fabricators



International Housewares Association



Petroleum Marketers Association of America



American Conservative Union



American Bus Association



Association of Equipment Manufacturers



American Foundry Society



National Industrial Sand Association



American Legislative Exchange Council



Aeronautical Repair Station Association



Equipment Marketing & Distribution Association



National Club Association



National Christmas Tree Association



American Business Defense Council



Education Market Association



Frontiers of Freedom



National Renderers Association



Equipment Dealers Association



Americans for Prosperity



Club for Growth



National Association for the Self-Employed



Conservatives for Property Rights



American Loggers Council



The Dude Ranchers' Association



National Marine Distributors Association



International Association of Plastics Distribution (IAPD)



United States Cattlemen's Association



International Sign Association



Auto Care Association



National Black Chamber of Commerce



National Small Business Association



Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council



Family Business Association of California



American Beverage Licensees



Professional Beauty Association



Material Handling Equipment Distributors Association



FreedomWorks



Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association



Water & Sewer Distributors of America



Western Growers Association



Land Improvement Contractors of America



American Horse Council



Center for Freedom and Prosperity



National Pasta Association



Kentucky Forest Industries Association



Independent Medical Distributors Association



Hispanic Leadership Fund



NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies



Irrigation Association



NACS – The Association for Convenience and Fuel Retailing



Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association



Franchise Business Services (representing Buffalo Wild Wings franchisees)



Rural & Agriculture Council of America



Independent Electrical Contractors



NATSO, Representing America's Travel Plazas and Truckstops



National Candle Association



Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association



Tire Industry Association



American Moving & Storage Association



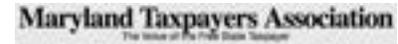
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds (ARVC)



Metals Service Center Institute



International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses



Maryland Taxpayers Association



Printing Industries of America



American Rental Association



NTEA – The Association for the Work Truck Industry



Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association



National Franchisee Association (representing Burger King franchisee)



Competitive Enterprise Institute



Sazerac



Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades (SSDA-AT)



National Utility Contractors Association



National Community Pharmacists Association



Jewelry Industry Distributors Association



National Roofing Contractors Association



Wholesale Florists & Florist Supplier Association



Window and Door Manufacturers Association



The Latino Coalition



Let Freedom Ring



Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Inc.



WMDA Service Station & Automotive Repair Association



60 Plus Association



Business & Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association



Washington Area New Auto Dealers Association



Convenience Distribution Association



Distribution Contractors Association



National Tax Limitation Committee



Power and Communication Contractors Association



American Pipeline Contractors Association



American Values



American Civil Rights Union



Less Government



Campaign for Liberty



Center for Individual Freedom



Taxpayers Protection Alliance



R-Street Institute



Heritage Action for America



U.S. Business and Industry Council



Home School Legal Defense Association



National Ready Mixed Concrete Association



National Wooden Pallet & Container Association



Family Business Coalition