

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and  
Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth House Office  
Washington, D.C, 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan & Chairman Brady:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in support of your efforts to pass pro-growth tax reform into law in 2017.

Given the importance of this issue, we believe it is imperative that the House of Representatives make significant progress in the first hundred days of the Trump administration toward passing comprehensive, pro-growth tax reform.

Passage of tax reform that simplifies and updates the code is key toward encouraging economic growth, creating more jobs and higher wages, and promoting innovation and ingenuity. The release of your “Better Way” tax reform blueprint last year was the first step in achieving this important goal, and we encourage you to continue working to ensure tax reform becomes a reality.

As you know, it has been more than 30 years since comprehensive tax reform was last signed into law. Since then, our foreign competitors have drastically reduced their rates, simplified their codes, and updated their systems to be globally competitive. Meanwhile, our tax code has almost tripled in size and has failed to keep pace with the norms of global tax competition.

Tax reform should be viewed as an opportunity to reduce rates for all taxpayers while also repealing many of the discriminatory and preferential provisions in the code in favor of a broader base. Lawmakers also ought to repeal a number of unnecessary taxes like the Death Tax and the Alternative Minimum Tax, which only add to the complexity of the system.

On the business side, tax reform should ensure our small businesses and corporations can compete against foreign competitors, while also ending the confusing, arbitrary system of depreciation in favor of immediate, full expensing of business investments.

Where possible, changes to the tax code should be permanent changes to law. When lawmakers have enacted short-term tax legislation in the past, it has inevitably come under threat in the future by legislators that want to increase the scope and size of government through higher taxes. In contrast, permanent legislation will give families and businesses much-needed certainty and will help contribute to a stronger economy.

Today, pro-growth tax reform is needed more than ever. It is imperative that lawmakers prioritize an overhaul of the tax code in 2017 and make significant progress in the first hundred days of the Trump administration.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist  
President, Americans for Tax Reform

Pete Sepp  
President, National Taxpayers Union

James L. Martin  
Founder & Chairman, 60 Plus Association

Dan Weber  
President, Association of Mature American Citizens

Lindsay Boyd  
Policy Director, Beacon Center of Tennessee

Jim Waters  
President, Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions (Kentucky)

Jeff Mazzella  
President, Center for Individual Freedom

Tom Schatz  
President, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Chip Faulkner  
Citizens For Limited Taxation (Massachusetts)

Chuck Muth  
President, Citizen Outreach (Nevada)

Katie McAuliffe  
Executive Director, Digital Liberty

Palmer Schoening  
Chairman, Family Business Coalition

Adam Brandon  
President and CEO, FreedomWorks

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President, Hispanic Leadership Fund

Carrie L. Lukas  
Managing Director, Independent Women's Forum  
Heather R. Higgins  
President and CEO, Independent Women's Voice

Andrew Langer  
President, Institute for Liberty

Dr. Robert McClure  
President and CEO, The James Madison Institute (Florida)

Lisa B. Nelson  
President and CEO, Jeffersonian Project

Brett Healy  
President, The John K. MacIver Institute for Public Policy (Wisconsin)

Allen Gutierrez  
National Executive Director, The Latino Coalition

Seton Motley  
President, Less Government

Colin Hanna  
President, Let Freedom Ring

Dee Hodges  
President, Maryland Taxpayers Association

Brian McClung  
Chair, Minnesota Center-Right Coalition

Jordan Harris  
Executive Director, Pegasus Institute (Kentucky)

William Boohar  
Interim Executive Director, Pelican Institute for Public Policy

Charlie Gerow  
CEO, Quantum Communications (Pennsylvania)

Paul J. Gessing  
President, Rio Grande Foundation (New Mexico)

Andrew Moylan  
Executive Director, R Street Institute

Karen Kerrigan  
President & CEO, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

David Williams  
President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance

