

AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

February 6, 2017

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

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



Better for You. Better for America.

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.

C O U N C I L F O R



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



Lindsey Boyd
Policy Director, Beacon Center of Tennessee

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



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
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Mario H. Lopez
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
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Executive Director, R Street Institute

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