



March 4, 2015

Congressman Kevin Brady
301 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Sanford Bishop
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

CC: Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Majority Whip Steve Scalise,
Senator John Thune

Dear Congressman Brady and Congressman Bishop:

The undersigned organizations support your bill, the *Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015*.

We appreciate your work to lead the country towards a common sense tax code that does not impose a destructive double or triple tax at death. We support full and permanent repeal of the federal estate tax for the following reasons:

Repealing the death tax would spur job creation and grow the economy. Many studies have quantified the job losses caused by the death tax. Last year the Tax Foundation and Heritage Foundation both found that the US could create over 100,000 jobs by repealing the death 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.

The death tax contributes a very small portion of federal revenues. The death tax currently accounts for less than half of one percent of federal revenue. There is a good argument that not collecting the death tax would create more economic growth and lead to an increase in federal revenue from other taxes. A 2014 Tax Foundation analysis found repeal of the death tax would increase federal revenues by \$3.3 billion per year 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.

The death tax falls particularly hard on minorities. The death tax threatens to confiscate generational capital from African-American and minority communities. Death tax liabilities bankrupted the Chicago Defender – the oldest black-owned daily newspaper in the United States – and will reduce net African-American wealth by 13 percent, according to a study conducted by Boston College professors John Haven and Paul Schervish. According to a 2004 Impacto Group poll, 50 percent of Hispanic business owners know someone who sold their business to pay the death tax and a quarter expect to sell their business because of the death tax.

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 death tax. Typically, two-thirds of likely voters support full and permanent repeal of the death tax. People instinctively feel that the death tax is not fair.

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. 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.

The negative effects of the death tax make permanent repeal the only solution for family businesses and farms. Your legislation will help America's family businesses create jobs, expand operations, and grow the economy. We thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.

Signed,



AMT – The Association for Manufacturing Technology



Food Marketing Institute



American Wholesale Marketers Association



International Franchise Association



American Supply Association



Agricultural Retailers Association



Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International



National Association of Electrical Distributors



National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association



National Council of Farmer Cooperatives



American Trucking Association



Associated General Contractors of America



Wine & Spirit Wholesalers of America



National Grange



Associated Wire Rope Fabricators



Forest Landowners



Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.



American Loggers Council



American International Automobile Dealers Association



Hardwood Federation



Associated Equipment Distributors



NAHAD - The Association for Hose and Accessories Distribution



Tire Industry Association



National Electrical Contractors Association



Window & Door Manufacturers Association



Industrial Supply Association



Aeronautical Repair Station Association



American Beverage Licensees



**Mason Contractors
Association of America**



**International Foodservice
Distributors Association**



**ISSA – The Worldwide
Cleaning Industry Association**



**United Fresh Produce
Association**



**WADA Service Station &
Automotive Repair Association**



**International Association of
Plastics Distribution**



**United States Cattlemen's
Association**



International Sign Association



Auto Care Association



**National Black Chamber of
Commerce**



**National Small Business
Association**



**International Housewares
Association**



**Petroleum Marketers
Association of America**



**National Funeral Directors
Association**



Professional Beauty Association



North American Meat Institute



Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades



Printing Industries of America



Truck Renting and Leasing Association



Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council



American Foundry Society



National Propane Gas Association



Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association



Forest Landowners Tax Council



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



Irrigation Association



National Insulation Association



Hispanic Leadership Fund



Woodworking Machine Industry Association



**Materials Handling
Equipment Distributors
Association**



**National Confectioners
Association**



Americans for Tax Reform



Americans for Prosperity



Heritage Action for America



Club for Growth



R-Street Institute



**Competitive Enterprise
Institute**



**Center for Freedom and
Prosperity**



National Taxpayers Union



**American Conservative
Union**



**American Business Defense
Council**



Free Congress Action



Let Freedom Ring



American Civil Rights Union

AMERICAN**COMMITMENT**

American Commitment



**National Tax Limitation
Committee**



**Association of Mature American
Citizens**



**Council for Citizens Against
Government Waste**



Campaign for Liberty



Taxpayer Protection Alliance



Less Government



American Values

**Maryland Taxpayers
Association**

**Americans for Constitutional
Action**