



January 24, 2017

Senator John Thune  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Kristi Noem  
2457 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

CC: Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Speaker Paul Ryan, Chairman Orrin Hatch, Chairman Kevin Brady, and Congressman Sanford Bishop

Dear Senator Thune and Congresswoman Noem:

The undersigned organizations support your bill, the *Death Tax Repeal Act of 2017*.

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 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.

**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 2016 state poll by YouGov conducted in South Dakota showed 75 percent of voters supported repealing the estate 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.

The negative effects of the estate 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



Heating, Air-conditioning, &  
Refrigeration Distributors  
International



**FOOD MARKETING INSTITUTE**  
Food Marketing Institute



Agricultural Retailers  
Association



National Association of  
Electrical Distributors



National Lumber and  
Building Material Dealers  
Association



International Foodservice  
Distributors Association



Convenience Distribution  
Association



Associated Equipment  
Distributors



International Franchise  
Association



American Supply  
Association



National Cotton Council of  
America



American Architectural  
Manufacturers Association



Hardwood Federation



National Confectioners  
Association



National Council of Farmer Cooperatives



American Trucking Association



Associated General Contractors of America



Association of Mature American Citizens



Air Conditioning Contractors of America



Americans for Tax Reform



Forest Landowners



Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.



National Association of Home Builders



Industrial Supply Association



National Insulation Association



North American Meat Institute



Printing Industries of America



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



National Automatic Merchandising Association



ISSA – The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association



Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association



Wine & Spirit Wholesalers of America



International Housewares Association



International Sleep Products Association



NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association



United Fresh Produce Association



NAHAD – The Association for Hose and Accessories Distribution



National Grange



Petroleum Marketers Association of America



National Taxpayers Union



North American Die Casting Association



National Electrical Contractors Association



Hardwood Manufacturers Association



Associated Wire Rope Fabricators



American Conservative Union





Heritage Action for America



Association of Equipment Manufacturers



American Foundry Society



National Industrial Sand Association



Window & Door Manufacturers Association



Aeronautical Repair Station Association



Equipment Marketing & Distribution Association



Free Congress Action



National Christmas Tree Association



American Business Defense Council



Education Market Association



National Association of Chemical Distributors



National Renderers Association



Equipment Dealers Association



Americans for Prosperity



Club for Growth



National Propane Gas Association



National Funeral Directors Association



Global Cold Chain Alliance



American Loggers Council



International Association of Plastics Distribution



Auto Care Association



Professional Beauty Association



Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council



National Roofing Contractors Association



American Commitment



The Dude Ranchers' Association



United States Cattlemen's Association



National Black Chamber of Commerce



Materials Handling Equipment Distributors Association



NACS – The Association for Convenience and Fuel Retailing



Water & Sewer Distributors of America



Log Cabin Republicans



R-Street Institute



INTERNATIONAL SIGN ASSOCIATION  
International Sign Association



National Small Business Association



American International Automobile Dealers Association



American Beverage Licensees



Western Growers Association



Woodworking Machine  
Industry Association



American Horse Council



Center for Freedom and  
Prosperity



Aviation Suppliers  
Association



American Council of  
Engineering Companies



Metals Service Center  
Institute



Hispanic Leadership Fund



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



Irrigation Association



Forest Landowners Tax  
Council



Florida Armenians, LLC



International Association of  
Refrigerated Warehouses



Franchise Business Services



Tire Industry Association



Jeffersonian Project



Rural Agriculture Council of America



American Moving & Storage Association



American Rental Association



Independent Electrical Contractors



National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds



NTEA – The Association for the Work Truck Industry



NATSO, Representing America's Travel Centers and Truckstops



National Grocers Association



Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association



National Franchisee Association



Competitive Enterprise Institute



Taxpayer Protection Alliance



Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades



National Utility Contractors Association



National Community Pharmacists Association





Modification and Replacement Parts Association



WMDA Service Station & Automotive Repair Association



60 Plus Association



American Civil Rights Union



Let Freedom Ring



National Precast Concrete Association



Campaign for Liberty



Americans for Constitutional Action



Less Government



U.S. Business and Industry Council



National Tax Limitation Committee



United Egg Producers



Family Business Coalition