

October 31, 2017

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

We urge you to deliver on the promise of tax reform.

It has been 31 years since Congress last reformed the tax code. Since then, the code has become an anchor weighing down the economy, job creation, and wage growth for American families.

Now, this Congress has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fix the problem.

Over the past several years, tremendous work has been done to prepare for this moment, and we applaud the efforts of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. We also commend this Congress for successfully setting the stage for tax reform by concluding the budget process.

Completing the task will not be easy. We commit to working with you to achieve our shared goal of comprehensive, pro-growth tax reform.

Anything less is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce
Alabama Retail Association
Alaska Chamber
Alliance for Competitive Taxation
American Bakers Association
American Bankers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Hotel & Lodging Association
American International Automobile Dealers Association
American Made Coalition
American Petroleum Institute
American Supply Association
Americans for Tax Reform
Ames Chamber of Commerce
Argentum
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Arkansas State Chamber
Associated Builders & Contractors of Greater Houston
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors

Associated Industries of Arkansas
Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
Association of American Railroads
Auto Care Association
Back Mountain Chamber
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Baytown, TX Chamber of Commerce
Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce
Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
Billings Chamber of Commerce
Birmingham Business Alliance
Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce
Bossier Chamber of Commerce
Bristol County Chamber of Commerce
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire
Business Council of Alabama
Business Council of New York State
Business Roundtable
Cache Chamber of Commerce
Caldwell Chamber of Commerce
Capital Region Chamber
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
Carson City Chamber of Commerce
Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce
Cary Chamber of Commerce
Cedar City Chamber of Commerce
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
Central Chamber of Commerce
Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce
Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce
Chamber Southwest Louisiana
Chamber630
ChamberWest
Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties
Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry
Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce

Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry
Colorado Retail Council
Columbia Chamber of Commerce
Columbus, GA Chamber of Commerce
Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Inc.
Consumer Bankers Association
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Covington County Chamber of Commerce
Crowley Chamber of Commerce
CTIA
Darke County Chamber of Commerce
Davis Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
Eatonton Chamber
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
Edison Electric Institute
Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Entertainment Software Association
Escondido Chamber of Commerce
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce
Fergus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Ferndale Chamber of Commerce
Financial Services Forum
Financial Services Roundtable
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida Retail Federation
Forward Janesville, Inc.
Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Georgia Retail Association
Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association & Film Commission
Goleta Chamber of Commerce
Grand Forks & East Grand Forks Chamber Of Commerce
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Burlington Partnership
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Greater Fayetteville Chamber
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Green Bay Chamber (WI)

Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
Greater Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville Inc.
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce
Greater OKC Chamber
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance
Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce
Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Yakima Chamber
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Harford County Chamber of Commerce
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
Huber Heights Chamber of Commerce
Hueneme Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Retail Council
International Franchise Association
International Warehouse Logistics Association
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Iowa Chamber Alliance
Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce
Iowa Retail Federation
Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce
JAX Chamber
Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce
Johnson City Chamber of Commerce
Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Kingsport Chamber of Commerce

Kyndle (Henderson County Kentucky Chamber of Commerce)
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Lakeland Chamber of Commerce
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
Lemont Chamber of Commerce
Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
Maine Innkeepers Association
Maine Restaurants Association
Marana Chamber of Commerce
Maricopa Chamber of Commerce
Marshall (MN) Area Chamber of Commerce
Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce
Mason City Area Chamber of Commerce
McLean County Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Mississippi Economic Council
Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Missouri Grocers Association
Missouri Retailers Association
Missouri Tire Industry Association
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Retail Association
Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Professional Employer Organizations
National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts
National Black Chamber of Commerce
National Club Association
National Grocers Association
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association

National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Retail Federation
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Nebraska Retail Federation
New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
North Country Chamber of Commerce
North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce
North Orange County Chamber of Commerce
North San Antonio Chamber
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce
Oklahoma Retail Merchants Association
One Acadiana (Lafayette, LA)
Orange County Business Council
Organization for International Investment
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
Plano Chamber of Commerce
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce
Portland Cement Association
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce
Rapid City Chamber of Commerce
Redmond Chamber of Commerce & CVB
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Reforming America's Taxes Equitably
Reno+Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Retailers Association of Maine
River Heights Chamber of Commerce
Rogers Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce
Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce

San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Selma and Dallas County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Information
Semiconductor Industry Association
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
South Bend Regional Chamber
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Retail Association
South Dakota Retailers Association
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
Southwest Indiana Chamber
Spencer County Regional Chamber of Commerce
St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
St. Louis Regional Chamber
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Tennessee Manufacturers Association
Texas Association of Business
Texas Retailers Association
The Chamber of Commerce of the Santa Barbara Region
The Fertilizer Institute
The National Association of Manufacturers
The Vinyl Institute
Traverse City Area Chamber
Tucson Metro Chamber
Tulsa Regional Chamber
TwinWest
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Upstate Chamber Coalition
USTelecom
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Retail Merchants Association
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
Wyoming Retail Association
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce
Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber
Yuma County Chamber of Commerce

November 1, 2017

Dear Senator Schumer,

On behalf of the Capital Region Chamber, I am writing in support of your efforts to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Business leaders across the country and throughout the Capital Region know first-hand that trade with Canada and Mexico has created American jobs, boosted economic growth, and strengthened local economies. However, we know we can do even more to seize the benefits of trade with our North American neighbors.

As our country's top export markets, trade with Canada and Mexico supports 14 million American jobs, including tens of thousands of jobs in every single state and more than 100,000 in 35 U.S. states. In New York State, over 318,000 jobs are supported by trade with Canada and Mexico and are attributable to NAFTA. Each and every day, over \$3.5 billion, or \$1.3 trillion annually, is traded between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. In fact, half of all Canadian and Mexican imports are "made-in-the-USA."

NAFTA has been especially beneficial for America's farmers. Agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico have quadrupled from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38 billion in 2016, generating big benefits for rural America. New York State's dairy and apple farmers are just two examples of our state's agribusinesses that benefit from NAFTA.

In addition, Canada and Mexico are the top two markets in the world for U.S.-made manufactured goods, with purchases of nearly half a trillion dollars last year; a sum that tops the next ten largest markets combined. Our North American neighbors are also booming markets for U.S. services exports. In fact, the U.S. last year recorded a trade surplus of \$11.9 billion with its NAFTA partners when manufactured goods and services are combined. Among the biggest beneficiaries of this commerce are America's small and medium-sized businesses, 125,000 of which sell their goods and services to Mexico and Canada.

As you know, the Chamber has insisted that we must, first, "do no harm" in the NAFTA negotiations. We agree that we should move quickly to modernize this trilateral agreement and continue working with Congress in accordance with the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015.

We look forward to working closely with you to grow the economy and create jobs through free and fair trade. To help facilitate that growth, we urge you to support America's workers, farmers, and businesses of all sizes by protecting and preserving the deep economic ties and benefits the United States continues to enjoy under NAFTA.

Thank you for your consideration of the Capital Region Chamber's perspective on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Capital Region Chamber

Dear New York State Congressional Delegation:

As organizations representing businesses, insurers, health care providers and labor, we are joining together to urge you to fight for the inclusion of a one year delay of the health insurance tax in any available legislative vehicle.

Congress has taken bipartisan action in the past to delay this tax. In 2015, Congress through bipartisan agreement delayed the health insurance tax for 2017.

But now the tax is set to come back in 2018, and it is increasing by 26% to \$14.3 billion.

As you are aware, the health insurance tax is a direct sales tax on health insurance premiums. A tax that will result in higher health care costs for millions of New Yorkers.

Last month the state Department of Financial Services approved premiums for 2018, with an average increase for individual policies of 13.9 percent and 9.3 percent for small groups. Actuarial analysis from DFS determined that 2 to 3 percent of those increases is directly due to the resumption of the health insurance tax. In dollars and cents, New York's families will pay about \$550 more in higher premiums next year.

New York's health care costs are already among the highest in the nation. The health insurance tax will place a significant burden on employers and deplete important resources for investments in new buildings, training employees and hinder their ability to hire new employees. The tax also impacts Medicare Advantage and Part D plans as well as the state's Medicaid program.

Simply put, our state's residents and employers cannot afford this tax. That is why stopping this costly tax is so important.

We appreciate your past leadership in helping to approve a one-year suspension of this tax for 2017 and urge you and the Congress to once again delay this tax as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Capital Region Chamber et al.

BUSINESS FOR FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDING

October 26, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of Business for Federal Research Funding, a broad-based coalition of more than 75 chambers of commerce from across the country, we are writing to urge you to raise the FY18 defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps so you can complete the FY18 appropriations before December 9 when the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires. Reaching a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the caps and allow the appropriations process to proceed is crucial for continued investments in research across the country.

Raising spending caps in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 allowed for steady growth in scientific research in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. That same support for research funding was also evident in the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act. With the raising of spending caps, we ask that you continue these investments as you craft a final FY18 appropriations package and provide robust funding to key research accounts such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH); the Department of Energy (DOE); the National Science Foundation (NSF); the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, and Homeland Security. Continued, steady investments is the only way for the U.S. to remain a leader in scientific research.

The Business for Federal Research Funding coalition formed to support federal research funding and to bring a heightened focus to the critical impact that federal research has on our nation's competitiveness. The innovations that flow from basic research are at the root of countless companies, products, and jobs. These innovations lead to scientific breakthroughs and new technologies ranging from the internet to communications satellites to defenses against disease. And the return on investment can be seen in every corner of our country. The wide variety of industries represented by coalition members will be hampered without the investment of federal dollars in basic research.

The United States needs to remain competitive with countries like China and Germany in technology and research & development. We believe our congressional leaders should not be focused on how much to cut from these

budgets—rather, the focus should be on how much to invest in research in order to retain our global competitiveness. Funding for research accounts have seen increases in the past few fiscal years, but for agencies like NIH, funding has not kept pace with inflation. According to the NIH Office of Budget, since 2003 the U.S. spent \$111.7 billion less on NIH funding than it would have if it kept pace with medical research inflation. In order to prevent further stagnation of U.S. innovation, it is crucial that appropriators ensure reliable annual appropriations at a steady rate above inflation.

We thank the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for rejecting the Administration’s budget request, particularly the proposed \$5.8 billion cut to the NIH, and the \$1.7 billion cut to the Department of Energy. These cuts would have had devastating impacts on innovation, jobs, and the economy. According to a report released by United for Medical Research (UMR), research funded by NIH supported almost **380,000 jobs** and **\$65 billion in economic activity** across the United States in 2016. Simply put, investment in federally funded scientific research creates jobs, and we thank the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for not only strongly rejecting these proposed cuts, but proposing to invest even more in NIH in FY18—the House by \$1 billion and Senate by \$2 billion.

Representing a strong cross-section of the nation’s business community, we respectfully urge you to work together in bipartisan fashion and reach a budget agreement to raise spending caps and move forward with FY18 appropriations, much of which has already been agreed upon. Doing so is the only way to continue critical investment in scientific research, and we ask that you provide robust funding, above inflation, for these critical accounts for fiscal year 2018. Our nation’s leadership in innovation stands in the balance.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Business for Federal Research Funding

cc: Members of the House and Senate Budget Committees
 Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees
 Business for Federal Research Funding Congressional Delegation

COALITION MEMBERS

BUSINESS FOR FEDERAL
RESEARCH FUNDING



MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AL)
LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CA)
SAN DIEGO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CA)
SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CA)
PASADENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CA)
SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP (CA)
AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CO)
COLORADO BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE (CO)
DENVER METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CO)
SOUTH DENVER METRO CHAMBER (CO)
BOULDER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CO)
FORT COLLINS AREAS CHAMBER (CO)
THE BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL (CT)
THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (CT)
GAINESVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FL)
GREATER MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FL)
GREATER TAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FL)
ATHENS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GA)
GEORGIA CHAMBER (GA)
DEKALB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GA)
METRO ATLANTA CHAMBER (GA)
GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP (IA)
IOWA CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IA)
CHICAGOLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IL)
NAPERVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IL)
INDY CHAMBER (IN)
GREATER TOPEKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (KS)
LAWRENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (KS)
MANHATTAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (KS)
GREATER BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MA)
CAMBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MA)
WORCESTER REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MA)
NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL (MA, RI, CT, VT, NH, ME)
MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MD)
ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI REGIONAL CHAMBER (MI)
MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MN)
GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MO)
ST. LOUIS REGIONAL CHAMBER (MO, IL)
CARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
CHARLOTTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
CARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)

CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
FAYETTEVILLE REGIONAL CHAMBER (NC)
GREATER DURHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
GREATER RALEIGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
GREATER WINSTON-SALEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
MORRISVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
GREATER OMAHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NE)
MIDJERSEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NJ)
PRINCETON REGIONAL CHAMBER (NJ)
BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NY)
CAPITAL REGION CHAMBER (NY)
MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NY)
TOMPKINS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NY)
COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (OH)
DAYTON DEVELOPMENT COALITION (OH)
GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP (OH)
GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER (OK)
EUGENE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (OR)
PORTLAND BUSINESS ALLIANCE (OR)
SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (OR)
CHAMBER OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY OF CENTRE COUNTY
(PA)
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR GREATER
PHILADELPHIA (PA, NJ, DE)
GREATER PITTSBURGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(PA)
CEO COUNCIL FOR GROWTH (PA, NJ, DE)
GREATER PROVIDENCE CHAMBER (RI)
AUSTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (TX)
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS (TX)
LUBBOCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (TX)
SALT LAKE CHAMBER (UT)
DULLES REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (VA)
CHARLOTTESVILLE REGIONAL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE (VA)
GREATER RICHMOND CHAMBER (VA)
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (VA)
SEATTLE METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(WA)
GREATER MADISON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WI)