



February 19, 2019

The Honorable Jason Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2418 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2407 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Smith and Bishop:

On behalf of the Family Business Estate Tax Coalition (FBETC), thank you for introducing H.R. 218, the Death Tax Repeal Act, to permanently repeal the estate tax.

The FBETC supported the provisions in the *American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012* including a \$5 million estate tax exemption, indexed for inflation, permanent lower tax rates and provisions for spousal transfer and stepped-up basis. Additionally, the FBETC supported the temporary estate tax relief in the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA)*, which doubled the exemption to approximately \$11.2 million for 2018 and indexed future increases for inflation through 2025.

These changes represent significant relief to family-owned businesses from the estate tax. However, without further Congressional action the temporary increase in the exemption amount will expire at the end of 2025, increasing uncertainty and planning costs. While the FBETC supports making the estate tax provisions of TCJA permanent, the FBETC continues to believe that repeal is the best solution to protect all family-owned businesses from the estate tax.

Thank you for your continued efforts to support America's family-owned businesses and farms. We look forward to working with you to advance this important issue.

Sincerely,

Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference of ATA  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Air Conditioning Contractors of America  
American Beverage Licensees  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Foundry Society

American International Automobile Dealers Association  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Association for Manufacturing Technology  
Auto Care Association  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
Food Marketing Institute  
Forest Resources Association  
Hardwood Federation  
Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International  
Independent Community Bankers of America  
International Franchise Association  
Mason Contractors Association of America  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Automobile Dealers Association  
National Beer Wholesalers Association  
National Black Chamber of Commerce  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Electrical Contractors Association  
National Funeral Directors Association  
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Newspaper Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
National Small Business Association  
National Tooling and Machining Association  
NFIB  
North American Die Casting Association  
Petroleum Marketers Association of America  
Plastics Industry Association  
Policy and Taxation Group  
Precision Machined Products Association  
Precision Metalforming Association  
S Corporation Association  
Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades

Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
Tire Industry Association  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
United Egg Producers  
USA Rice Federation  
Western Growers Association  
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America