



February 19, 2019

The Honorable John Thune
U.S. Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

On behalf of the Family Business Estate Tax Coalition (FBETC), thank you for introducing S. 215, 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