

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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March 25, 2015

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Levin:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 1105, the "Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015," which would permanently repeal the estate tax.

The Chamber has long called for full repeal of the estate tax in order to protect family-owned businesses from this punitive tax. As with any tax on savings and capital accumulation, the estate tax takes away jobs and stifles economic activity. It can deplete the estates of family business owners who have saved their entire lives, or worse, can force the liquidation of successful family-owned businesses in order to pay the tax.

As work continues towards comprehensive tax reform, family-owned businesses should be protected from this punitive tax. The Chamber supports H.R. 1105 and looks forward to continuing work towards comprehensive tax reform.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: The Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means