



ESTATE TAX

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is committed to the goal of full repeal of the estate tax. The Chamber will support temporary extensions of current law until full repeal or permanent extension of current law is enacted.

The Chamber opposes the estate tax because it:

- Takes away jobs and stifles economic activity.
- Crushes the incentive to invest and save.
- Burdens small businesses and family-owned businesses and creates succession planning nightmares.
- Penalizes hard work and punishes entrepreneurship.
- Hurts those who have their savings tied up in land and other hard-to-sell assets.

While Congress acted in 2010 to provide temporary estate tax relief, American families and small businesses once again face a looming tax hike. Congress must act now to provide permanent estate tax relief.

- The estate tax applies to all property the decedent has an interest in at the time of death including real estate, annuities, life insurance and business assets.
- Without Congressional action, the current \$5 million per individual (\$10 million per couple) exemption and 35% tax rate will expire on December 31, 2012.
- In 2013, the estate tax once again returns to pre-2001 levels, with a top tax rate of 55% and an exemption amount of only \$1 million per individual (\$2 million per couple). Additionally, estates with a value over \$10 million will again be assessed a 5% surtax.

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