



October 3, 2017

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Chairman
Senate Budget Committee
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Budget Committee
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Enzi and Ranking Member Sanders:

As Co-Chairs of the Reforming America's Taxes Equitably (RATE) Coalition – whose members created nearly 135,000 total jobs in Vermont and Wyoming and currently employ one-third of America's private sector workforce – we are writing to applaud the path provided by your Committee to reduce the tax burden for all Americans. Critical to the once-in-a-generation opportunity before you, as recognized by a growing chorus of bipartisan leaders such as former presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, is the need to make our broken tax code globally competitive.

While our corporate tax rate has remained mostly unchanged since 1986, countries the world over continue to take the simple, yet significant step of easing the burden placed on job-creating businesses. As a result of that dissonance between our inaction and our competition's initiative, America's combined corporate tax rate of nearly 40 percent currently ranks as the highest in the industrialized world – a full 15 percentage points higher than the OECD average.

In testimony submitted to your colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee last month, we outlined how the steep rate at which American businesses of all sizes are taxed ultimately manifests itself as a steep cost for the American worker:

- A competitive corporate income tax rate would have kept 4,700 companies in the United States from 2004 to 2016. ([EY](#), 9/17)
- "...High corporate tax rates push down the wages of the average corporate worker by as much as \$4,690 a year." ([National Retail Federation](#), 9/14/17)
- "Research shows that between 25 and 75 percent of the U.S. corporate income tax is borne by workers through lower wages and reduced job opportunities..." ([National Retail Federation](#), 9/14/17)

- “Assuming that Congress were to reduce the corporate tax rate to 20 percent...wages could increase in the range of \$32 billion to \$97 billion.” ([National Retail Federation](#), 9/14/17)
- Over a 10-year period, a pro-growth tax reform plan would add more than 6.5 million jobs to the U.S. economy. ([NAM](#), 1/15)

As is evident, our corporate tax rate continues to cause our businesses to flee for cheaper shores abroad and our workers to take home less pay than they deserve. We therefore encourage the swift passage of your resolution to finally unlock tax reform, which will deliver a win for the American people.

Sincerely,

Elaine C. Kamarck
Co-Chair, RATE Coalition

James Pinkerton
Co-Chair, RATE Coalition