May 6th, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker, U.S. House
Room H-232, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Office of the Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Room S-230, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Office of the Republican Leader, U.S. House
H-204, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Office of the Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Room S-221, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Don’t Revive the Expired Tax Extenders

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

Over 16 months ago, a package of temporary business tax breaks known as “tax extenders” were allowed to expire.

On behalf of our organizations and the broader public interest, we are writing to urge you to ignore calls from special interests to revive these zombie extenders. Let what is dead remain dead.

Though our organizations span the political spectrum, we all agree that it is time to stop making tax policy one year at a time. Bringing back these temporary tax giveaways, particularly on a retroactive basis after most Americans have already filed their taxes, is bad tax, fiscal, and economic policy.
Both parties agreed to end these provisions under the bipartisan PATH Act of 2015, which made a number of temporary tax provisions permanent and was supposed to put “an end to the repeated tax extenders exercise,” according to then-Chairman Hatch (R-UT).

Since that time, both Democrats and Republicans have called for reducing the number of corporate tax breaks and other carve-outs in the tax code, not expanding them. A good first step would be to not bring back those few tax breaks that are already expired.

While our groups differ on what future tax policy should look like, we all agree that it is time to end the practice of passing and extending costly temporary tax provisions.

As many of us wrote last year, the American public deserves fair and stable tax, fiscal, and economic policy. Tax extenders don’t pass muster.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Maya MacGuineas
President, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget

Alan Essig
Executive Director, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

Nathan Nascimento
Executive Vice President, Freedom Partners

Tim Chapman
Executive Director, Heritage Action

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer,
Americans for Prosperity

Robert L. Bixby
Executive Director, Concord Coalition

Faye Park
President, U.S. PIRG

Thea Lee
President, Economic Policy Institute
Adam Brandon  
President, FreedomWorks

Myron Ebell  
Director of the Center for Energy and Environment, Competitive Enterprise Institute

Ben Ritz  
Director, Progressive Policy Institute's Center for Funding America's Future

Maura Quint  
Executive Director, Tax March

Cc: Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley  
   Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden  
   House Ways & Means Chairman Richard Neal  
   House Ways & Means Ranking Member Kevin Brady