



COMMITTEE FOR A  
RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL BUDGET



AMERICANS FOR  
PROSPERITY



Economic  
Policy  
Institute



December 6, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
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 Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Democratic Leader, U.S. House  
Room H-204, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

**Re: Time to End the Extenders**

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

On behalf of our organizations and the broader public interest, we are writing to urge your support for ending the practice of temporary “tax extenders” once and for all.

Though our organizations span the political spectrum, we all agree that it is time to stop making tax policy one year at a time. Continuing to renew special-interest tax giveaways on a temporary and often retroactive basis is bad tax, fiscal, and economic policy.

The bipartisan PATH Act of 2015 was supposed to put “an end to the repeated tax extenders exercise,” according to Chairman Hatch (R-UT). This sentiment was shared by members of both parties. Yet rather than breaking that cycle, these policies are back on the table once again.

Last year’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act offered a chance to deal with any lingering tax extenders as part of broader tax reform. In the end, many of these special-interest tax provisions were left out precisely because they would have no place in a post-tax reform world. One of the stated goals of that bill was to eliminate loopholes, carve-outs, and deductions that benefit special interests in favor of lowering rates across the board. Congress should not insert these policies back into the tax code now or in the future.

It is time to end this counterproductive cycle. While we appreciate that the proposed package did not include any new tax extenders, the practice of extending temporary tax provisions should be ended on the whole.

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,



Tim Chapman  
Executive Director, Heritage Action



Alan Essig  
Executive Director, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy



Brent Gardner  
Chief Government Affairs Officer, Americans for Prosperity



Thea Lee  
President, Economic Policy Institute



Maya MacGuineas  
President, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget



Nathan Nascimento  
Executive Vice President, Freedom Partners



Faye Park  
President, U.S. PIRG

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