Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 5, 2014

Congressman John Boehner
H-232 The Capitol
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Kevin McCarthy
H-107 The Capitol
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Steve Scalise
H-329 The Capitol
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader McCarthy, and Majority Whip Scalise,

We write to respectfully request that H.R. 2429, the Death Tax Repeal Act, be brought to the floor for a vote at the earliest possible opportunity. It has been nine years since the House of Representatives last voted to repeal the federal estate tax, or 'death' tax. The 236 members who have been elected in the intervening period had not yet had an opportunity to vote to repeal this onerous, destructive tax, the repeal of which has bipartisan support.

Repeal of the death tax is an important issue to our constituents, including the family business owners, employees, farmers and consumers whose livelihoods would benefit from repeal.

The staggering 40% taxation rate of the death tax has a particularly acute impact on the family farms that make up 96%[1] of our nation's agriculture sector and the small businesses that are 99%[2] of our nation's employers. The death tax creates a nearly insurmountable hurdle for small business owners and farmers who wish to pass the fruits of their life's labor from one generation to the next.

The very concept of a death tax is counter to the idea of private property that our nation was founded upon.

Ways & Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp also recently made comments in support of a floor vote on the death tax:

> "While the fiscal cliff agreement finally provided some much-needed certainty when it comes to estate planning, I have long-supported, and would still like to see, the full repeal of the death tax. I think it is important for Congress to go on record – especially all the new Members who have been elected in recent years – to show the bipartisan support for killing this tax, which forces the sale of family farms and small businesses."[3]

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[1] http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/in_focus/familyfarm_if_overview.html
[2] http://www.sbecouncil.org/about-us/facts-and-data/
[3] http://www.forbes.com/sites/ryanellis/2014/06/18/u-s-house-may-soon-kill-the-death-tax/

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With a majority of the House cosponsoring the Death Tax Repeal Act, we believe that it is time to bring this measure to a vote on the floor and address an issue that resonates across the nation. Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress

Matt Salmon
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

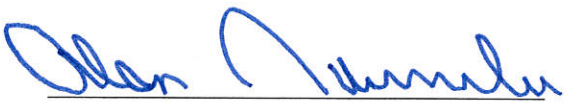
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Justin Amash
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress

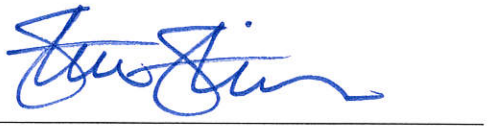
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

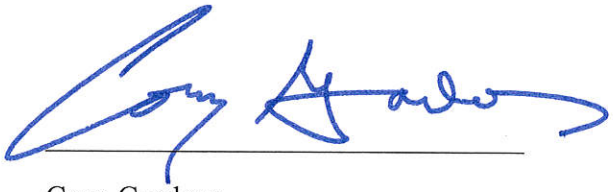


Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress

John Culberson
Member of Congress



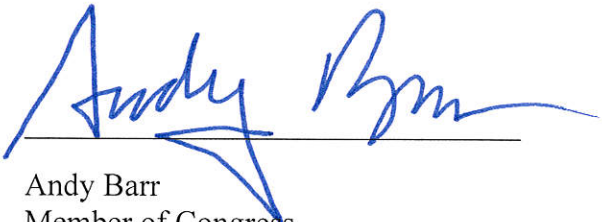
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress

Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress

David Joyce
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

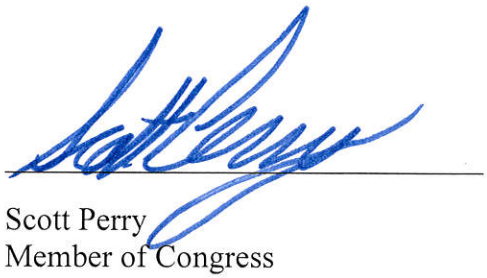
Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress

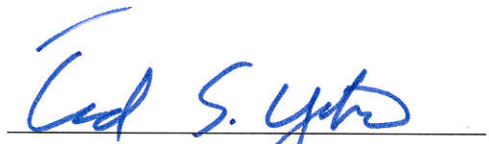
Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

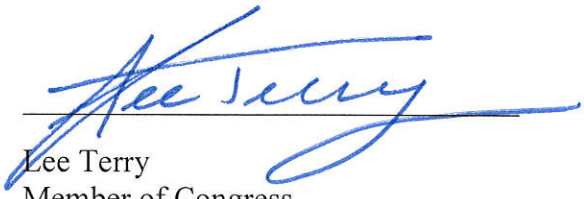


Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Kerry Bentivolio
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress



Lee Terry
Member of Congress