

without risking penalty from the federal government. TPA is pleased that the conference committee offers a plan that sharply curtails government while giving power back to hard-working Americans.

TPA urges every Congressman to vote YES on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

CLUB FOR GROWTH.

Re key vote alert—"YES" on Conference Report to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1.

The Club for Growth supports the conference report to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (HR 1) and we urge all members of Congress to vote YES on it. A vote is expected in the next few days. The vote will be included in the Club's 2017 congressional scorecard. This bill is not perfect, but it's still very pro-growth. Some of the more pro-growth elements of the bill include lowering the corporate tax rate down to 21%, a new 20% deduction for pass-through businesses, doubling the Death Tax exemption, and moving to an international territorial tax system. The bill also modestly lowers individual tax rates and doubles the standard deduction.

The Club for Growth urges immediate passage of HR 1. Congress should also begin work on another pro-growth tax bill for next year that addresses other parts of the tax code left untouched by this proposal.

Our Congressional Scorecard for the 115th Congress provides a comprehensive rating of how well or how poorly each member of Congress supports pro-growth, free-market policies and will be distributed to our members and to the public.

FREEDOMWORKS.

KEY VOTE YES ON THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT, H.R. 1

On behalf of our activist community, I urge you to contact your representative and senators and ask them to vote YES on the conference report for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1. This final agreement on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provides much-needed relief to taxpayers across the country and to American businesses alike.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowers individual rates for the vast majority of taxpayers. In addition, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act nearly doubles the standard deduction, meaning Americans keep more of their hard-earned money, and doubles the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. This bill also provides relief by doubling the exemption amount from the unfair death tax.

Pass-through business owners, who file their taxes on their individual tax return, will be able to take a 20 percent deduction. This lowers the tax burden currently faced by pass-through businesses, which, according to the Tax Foundation, employ 70 million people, and promotes fairness.

America's business community will also see added growth as a result of the policy changes in this bill. The corporate tax rate will be lowered substantially from 35 percent to 21 percent, making American businesses more globally competitive and allowing them the resources they need to innovate and create jobs. It also eliminates confusion and complexity so job creators can focus on building their company and hiring working Americans.

This bill also repeals the harmful ObamaCare individual mandate, a coercive tax on Americans. It's estimated that 80 percent of households subject to this tax earn less than \$50,000 per year. This is an unnecessary hardship being placed on working Americans. The federal government should not punish individuals who cannot afford ObamaCare's costly health insurance plans or decide it is not the best course for them.

For these reasons, I urge you to call your representative and senators and ask them to vote YES on the conference report for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1. FreedomWorks will count the vote on our 2017 Congressional Scorecard. The scorecard is used to determine eligibility for the FreedomFighter Award, which recognizes Members of the House and Senate who consistently vote to support economic freedom and individual liberty.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNION OF NIGERIAN FRIENDS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Union of Nigerian Friends for its 30 years of service to Forest Hill and the North Texas community.

In 1987, the Union of Nigerian Friends was founded in order to provide a safe environment for dialogue on issues that affect the political, economic, and social progress for Nigerians here in my home state of Texas. Since its establishment 30 years ago, the Union of Nigerian Friends continues to promote cultural awareness and unity among all Nigerians and Americans, while serving as a shining example of civic engagement for our community.

The Union of Nigerian Friends takes great pride in its active civic participation through its numerous community partnerships in the areas of business, family recreation and education. For their longstanding excellence in community engagement Mayor Lyndia Thomas of the city of Forest Hill, Texas recognized the Union of Nigerian Friends for their success.

I honor the Union of Nigerian Friends 30th anniversary celebration.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN AND HOWARD GILLESPIE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jean and Howard Gillespie of Red Oak, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 20, 2017.

Jean and Howard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

IN HONOR OF ALEXANDRIA WINNING CLASS 5A WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STATE TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Alexandria High School for winning the Class 5A State Title.

The Valley Cubs sealed their victory by beating Lawrence County High School on November 2nd at Bill Harris Arena in Birmingham in three sets for the Class 5A State Title: 25-23, 25-16, 25-13.

The Head Coach is Whitney Welch and Assistant Coaches are Kelli Johnson and Toni Hess. Players include: Kendal Bumpus, Madison Chastain, Kinsley Gregoria, Kaitlin Harvey, Anna Johnson, Kate Johnson, China Lane, Gracie Muncher (All-State Team), Aubrey Pope (All State Team), Kyleigh Rhodes, Taylor Spradley (Class 5A MVP), Kameron Simpson, Kayleigh Steen and Mattie Wade (All State Team).

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Alexandria High School, the coaches, the players and all the Valley Cubs fans on this exciting achievement. Go Valley Cubs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 697.

TRIBUTE TO NIX LAURIDSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nix Lauridsen of Des Moines, Iowa, for his induction to the 2017 Iowa Business Hall of Fame.

The Greater Des Moines Committee founded the Iowa Business Hall of Fame in 1975 to honor Iowans who have helped to enhance the state's business climate. Nix is the co-founder and chairman of Lauridsen Group, Inc which oversees several independent companies that operate processing plants worldwide. Gaining his first experience in the processing industry at his father's rendering plant Boyer Valley, Nix's companies have pioneered the development of value-added products from the separation of plasma from red cells, as well as adding plasma to swine diet that reduced baby pig mortality from 10 percent to 2 percent. Outside of business, Nix has been a major advocate for education and the arts in Des Moines.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Nix on his induction to the 2017 Iowa Business

Hall of Fame and commend him for his dedication to our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this outstanding achievement and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from the Retail Industry Leaders Association, Dow Chemical Company, Semiconductor Industry Association, Information Technology Industry Council, Coalition for American Insurance, AT&T, and the National Roofing Contractors Association:

RETAIL INDUSTRY LEADERS
ASSOCIATION.

TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS: The Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) urges Congress to pass the conference report to H.R. 1, the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," which is scheduled for floor consideration this week. The bill provides for comprehensive tax reform, which is critical to growing the economy and improving U.S. international competitiveness. It accomplishes these goals by doing, among other things: immediately reducing the corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent; replacing our current worldwide tax system with a territorial tax system; and modifying individual tax rates, with a focus on providing a tax cut for middle income taxpayers.

RILA is the trade association of the world's largest and most innovative retail companies. RILA members include more than 200 retailers, product manufacturers, and service suppliers, which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, millions of American jobs, and more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities, and distribution centers located both domestically and abroad.

Over 42 million jobs in the United States are either in retail or supported by retail, making retail America's largest private sector employer. With more than \$3.8 trillion in sales and hundreds of billions paid in wages, retail is one of America's most powerful economic engines. In fact, consumer spending represents two-thirds of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).

Despite the retail industry's prominent place in the economy, retailers pay among the highest effective tax rates among U.S. industries. In 2016, retailers paid an average domestic effective tax rate of 34.6 percent. As a result, retailers paid \$32.5 billion in federal taxes, representing 11 percent of the total federal corporate income tax paid by all corporate taxpayers. This tax treatment for the retail sector stifles job creation, investment, and consumer savings for a sector so important to our nation's economy.

It has been 31 years since the tax code has been fundamentally reformed. RILA and its member companies urge passage of the conference report to H.R. 1, "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" to finalize this once in a generation opportunity to reform the tax code to benefit the economy and America's workers, consumers, and businesses.

DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BRADY: On behalf of The Dow Chemical Company, I write to urge

you to vote in favor of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This bill represents a hard-won compromise based on constructive dialogue among many stakeholders, and it deserves to become law.

Tax reform is critical for American manufacturers and our ability to thrive at home and compete globally. The legislation before you achieves a lower corporate rate and a shift to a territorial system—the key components of a pro-growth policy that will help U.S. manufacturers succeed in an increasingly competitive global environment.

Over the past 10 years, Dow has invested more than \$8 billion in the U.S. and Dow is prepared to invest an additional \$4 billion in American manufacturing factories and infrastructure. This bill, with a focus on U.S. growth and competitiveness, will drive further investments such as ours, resulting in more jobs and strengthening the U.S. manufacturing sector, along with the many industries it supports.

Passing this bill and enacting the first major overhaul of our tax code in a generation will be a significant accomplishment for this Congress. Most importantly, tax reform will bolster American businesses of all sizes, their employees and the communities they call home.

SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2017.
Re Semiconductor Industry backs Corporate
Tax Reform Conference Report.

The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), representing U.S. leadership in semiconductor manufacturing, design, and research, today announced its support for the conference report on H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The conference report reconciles differences between tax reform bills passed by the House and Senate in recent weeks. Votes on the conference report are expected this week in both chambers.

"America's economic strength and global technology leadership depend heavily on corporate tax policy that promotes growth and encourages innovation," said John Neuffer, president & CEO, Semiconductor Industry Association. "We support the conference report because it includes several important provisions that will make U.S. semiconductor companies more globally competitive. SIA is particularly pleased that conferees largely retained the balanced international approach of the Senate bill."

The conference report includes several measures the U.S. semiconductor has long supported. These include lowering the corporate rate to a globally competitive level of 21 percent, modernizing our international tax structure, and creating an incentive for foreign income from intellectual property (IP) held in the U.S. Repeal of the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) also protects the utility of the R&D tax credit, which helps ensure our industry can stay at the tip of the technology leadership spear.

"Semiconductors are one of America's top exports and a key driver of U.S. economic strength, national security, and technology leadership," said Neuffer. "This legislation modernizes the U.S. tax code and makes the United States a more competitive location for semiconductor research, design, and manufacturing. We urge the Senate and House to pass it and the President to sign it into law in short order."

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY COUNCIL.

DEAR LEADERS MCCONNELL AND SCHUMER, SPEAKER RYAN AND LEADER PELOSI: On behalf of the over 60 members of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), I write to express our strong support of the

conference report to the H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Given the importance of these provisions to the high-tech community, we will consider scoring votes in support of final passage of the tax reform legislation in our 115th Congressional Voting Guide.

ITI has long advocated for tax reform that builds a more competitive economy and incentivizes innovation. We are pleased to see that this critical legislation includes a permanent, competitive corporate rate, moves to a territorial system and creates powerful incentives for innovation including a permanent Research and Development Credit, and a tax incentive for income made abroad on intellectual property held in the United States.

Updating the over 30-year-old U.S. tax code is an essential step towards a more rational system for the nation. Adopting a territorial tax system where profits are taxed where they occur is essential to aligning the US system with the rest of the world. Similarly lowering the corporate rate, from one the highest statutory rates in the developed world, will make the United States more competitive in the global arena. Critically for our sector, the law will help ensure the United States remains the global leader in innovative technologies by providing incentives for the development and retention of intellectual property.

On behalf of ITI's member companies, we urge members of the House and Senate to support the final conference report to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

COALITION FOR AMERICAN INSURANCE,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2017.
Re we support the Tax Cut and Jobs Act.

LEGISLATION ESTABLISHES LEVEL PLAYING
FIELD FOR ALL INSURERS IN U.S.

The Coalition for American Insurance strongly supports the final version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The historic legislation includes a significant reform that will ensure more equal tax treatment for U.S. based insurers and consumers by addressing a longstanding loophole that allowed foreign insurance companies to move their U.S.-generated insurance profits abroad to avoid tax.

"With this agreement, Congress has made good on its promise to create U.S. jobs and to keep American companies competitive in the global marketplace. Importantly, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act helps to close the tax haven loophole in the current tax code that unfairly rewarded the transfer of profits and jobs overseas. Now, with the inclusion of the Base Erosion and Anti-Abuse Tax (BEAT) to impede the offshoring of profits by foreign companies to tax havens, all insurers operating in the U.S. market will do so on the most level playing field in decades.

"The BEAT is not discriminatory. Instead, it ensures that all companies doing business in the United States will pay U.S. taxes on that business. This is an important reform that will help maintain a thriving American-based insurance industry and enhance choices for all consumers.

"We strongly urge members of the House and Senate to approve the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act so that this bill can be signed into law this year."

AT&T.

AT&T remains committed to invest an additional \$1 billion in the United States in 2018 if the bill proposed by the House and Senate conference committee is passed into law.

NATIONAL ROOFING
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION.

The National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) supports the conference report