

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON PRO-GROWTH TAX REFORM

WASHINGTON, DC.—Business Roundtable today issued the following statement in support of the conference report on H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017:

“This bill represents a remarkable, once-in-a-generation achievement by the House and Senate. Business leaders applaud the conference committee for coming to an agreement that will promote U.S. competitiveness and spur economic growth. This agreement results from years of serious policy work and debate that produced legislation the President can now sign into law. Business Roundtable strongly endorses this conference report and urges both chambers to pass it without delay.”

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS.

LETTER NO. 1

NAM ON TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT: HISTORIC PROGRESS FOR MANUFACTURERS

TIMMONS: “MANUFACTURERS WILL INVEST IN THEIR COMPANIES AND WORKERS.”

WASHINGTON, DC.—National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) President and CEO Jay Timmons released the following statement on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act conference report:

“America will be better off than we are today once this tax reform bill becomes law. This legislation represents historic progress for manufacturers and for all Americans. As manufacturers across our country have said many times, tax reform done right will empower us to create more well-paying jobs and invest and build more right here in America. According to the NAM’s latest Manufacturers’ Outlook Survey, a pro-growth tax code will encourage manufacturers to increase capital spending, expand their businesses and hire more workers—and nearly half will increase employee wages and benefits.

“While this bill is good news, we can never quit looking at what other countries are doing every single day to take away our mantle of economic leadership. The NAM has fought for years—decades, really—for even lower rates than provided in this legislation for manufacturers of all sizes, especially small manufacturers organized as pass-through entities. We will not let up. We will work to ensure this legislation functions as intended.

“We will continue our fight and will rally manufacturing workers and their families to encourage more progress in the years ahead. Today, we’re calling for our government to produce a comprehensive study every three years to compare how the U.S. tax code stacks up with our competitors around the world. The last time true tax reform was enacted was in 1986, 31 years ago. If we wait until 2048 to revisit the tax code, we will no doubt discover that we have fallen significantly behind once again. For the future of every manufacturing worker in America, our elected leaders must constantly strive to ensure our country’s business climate is far better than merely average. Manufacturers and the NAM will never stop leading that fight.”

LETTER NO. 2

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support the Conference Report to H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

American workers need bold tax reform to not just raise their job prospects but to im-

prove their lives. For years, manufacturing workers have sought an updated tax code that spurs economic growth and global competitiveness. Instead, they have a system that holds our nation back due to high tax rates on our small manufacturers, the backbone of our economy, and hinders large manufacturing enterprises that provide livelihoods for millions of families. Manufacturers are saddled with arcane rules for taxing international income and significant compliance burdens that exacerbate our competitive disadvantage. We are counting on you to lift up these hardworking men and women.

The Conference Report to H.R. 1 takes the important steps toward addressing five key elements that NAM members believe will set the stage for manufacturing growth: a lower corporate rate, reduced burdens on business income earned by pass-through entities, a territorial tax system, robust incentives for capital equipment purchases and retention of tax incentives for research and development. While this bill could go even further to address these key areas that promote added economic growth, it still provides the opportunity to strengthen the manufacturing economy. With this vote, you have the ability to improve manufacturers’ global competitiveness, grow the economy, spur investment and create more well-paying manufacturing jobs. For every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing an additional \$1.89 is added to the economy. In 2015, the average manufacturing worker earned nearly \$82,000 per year in salary and benefits. In short, passing historic tax reform will lead to better jobs, better wages and better opportunities for more people to achieve their American Dream. The NAM’s Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on the Conference Report to H.R. 1, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 115th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS.

LETTER NO. 1

National Federation of Independent Business says this is the tax relief that small business needs, urges quick passage

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) issued the following statement today on behalf of President and CEO Juanita Duggan on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, released today by the conference committee:

“We are very pleased by the tax bill reported out of conference today, and we are grateful to leaders in the House and Senate for following through on their promise to cut taxes on small businesses.

“Tax relief is the number-one priority for small businesses, which represent half the economy and half the GDP. This bill will allow millions of small business owners to keep and reinvest more of their money, so they can grow and create jobs. We urge both chambers to pass the bill quickly, so it can be signed into law before the end of the year.”

LETTER NO. 2

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation’s leading small business advocacy organization, I am writing in support of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act conference report. This legislation will provide much needed tax relief to America’s job-creating small businesses. This will be considered an NFIB Key Vote for the 115th Congress.

Small business is the engine of the economy, and tax reform should provide substantial relief to all small businesses so they can reinvest their money, grow, and create jobs. Ninety-nine percent of all American busi-

nesses are small businesses; the average NFIB member has just 10 employees. Taken in sum, however, small businesses create half of all private-sector jobs in the U.S. and contribute half the nation’s gross domestic product.

Three-quarters of America’s small employers are structured as pass-through entities, meaning their owners are taxed at the individual rate as opposed to the corporate rate. Crucially, the conference report creates a new 20% deduction for pass-through income of small businesses. Further, it allows all types of small businesses—regardless of industry segment—to benefit from this deduction.

NFIB supports passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act conference report and will consider it an NFIB Key Vote for the 115th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to protect small business.

ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE TAXATION.

ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE TAXATION APPLAUDS SENATE AND HOUSE LEADERS FOR ADVANCING TAX REFORM

WASHINGTON.—The Alliance for Competitive Taxation (ACT), a coalition of leading American businesses that employ millions of American workers, issued the following statement on the Conference Report of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:

“We applaud leaders in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House for reaching an agreement on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Conference Report. This pro-growth tax reform bill is a major step in leveling the playing field for American businesses competing in world markets and will create opportunities for American workers.

“We urge members of the Senate and House to swiftly pass this historic legislation that will strengthen our economy, promote investment in the U.S. and create American jobs.

“We are committed to working with Congress and the Administration beyond final passage of this legislation to ensure that tax reform achieves the desired goal of benefiting American workers and promoting U.S. competitiveness and economic growth.”

REMEMBERING CHIEF IRVING POWLESS, JR.

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Onondaga Nation Chief Irving Powless, Jr.

Chief Powless was born in Syracuse, the son of Chief Irving Powless, Sr. and Cecelia Powless, both active members within the Onondaga Nation. As chief of the Beaver Clan of the Onondaga Nation, Chief Powless, Jr. established a reputation for his quick wit, enthusiasm, and ability to ease stressful situations. He served as secretary of the Onondaga Council of Chiefs for more than 30 years and was a respected leader throughout Central New York. Chief Powless was an expert on treaty rights, and throughout his life, tirelessly advocated for the rights of the Onondaga Nation and the Haudenosaunee peoples.

Chief Powless’ love for his people and for their history never faltered over the course of his life. He was an avid historian, and spent time as a lecturer, author, and teacher. Beyond his role as a scholar, Chief Powless was

an avid hunter, lacrosse player, and environmental advocate. He worked to obtain a new health center for the Onondaga Nation School, and to return sacred objects from museums to the Onondaga people. He published several books, including, “Who are These People Anyway?”

It is my honor to recognize the life and legacy of this great leader in our community. May Chief Irving Powless, Jr. name and legacy forever be remembered in the RECORD. Rest peacefully.

HEZBOLLAH'S ILLICIT ACTIVITIES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent report reveals that the Obama White House, in a desperate attempt to appease the Ayatollahs in Iran, let Hezbollah off the hook. The report outlines how the DEA was on to Hezbollah's illicit network of drug and arms trafficking, money laundering and other criminal activities, yet the Obama administration stalled or blocked any prosecutions that would have disrupted the terror group's nefarious activities so that Iran would agree to the nuclear deal. This stunning revelation adds more evidence to why the JCPOA was a bad deal.

For years Hezbollah built an extensive network in Latin America to raise money for its terrorist activities. Addressing Hezbollah's illicit activities across the globe, but in particular the Western Hemisphere, has been a top priority for Congress for many years.

Through hearings and legislation we have exposed the direct ties between Hezbollah and criminal groups in the region that allowed Hezbollah to amass nearly \$1 billion annually. Yet the U.S. failed to take sufficient action to disrupt this massive flow of money, drugs, and arms that have made Hezbollah the most powerful terrorist group in the world.

In 2014, a GAO review noted that only two of 12 requirements that were mandated by the Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act were being addressed. Meanwhile, Hezbollah's activity in our hemisphere increased. In June 2017, an individual with alleged ties to the terrorist group was arrested in Paraguay and extradited to the U.S. That same month, another individual was arrested for attempting to provide support to Hezbollah in targeting the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Panama. These events followed the 2014 arrest of a Hezbollah operative in Peru, an Iranian-linked assassination attempt on the Saudi Ambassador in Washington in 2011, and the deadly terrorist attacks against two Jewish targets in Argentina in the 1990s. Moreover, the special prosecutor who uncovered Iran and Hezbollah's role in the Argentina attacks was murdered in 2015.

Together with my colleagues, Chairman Cook of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee and Chairman Ros-Lehtinen of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, I have sent a letter to President Trump urging him to address the shortfalls that occurred under the Obama administration in terms of dismantling Hezbollah's illicit activities. We, in the House, have provided the tools necessary to pursue Hezbollah, passing H.R. 3329, the

Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act, which includes Section 105 mandating a U.S. strategy to address Iran and Hezbollah's networks in the Western Hemisphere and requiring the alignment of U.S. actions with our regional partners. We are prepared to do more to make up for years of negligence under the Obama White House that allowed these killers to go unbothered. And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO THE CUMBERLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY

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 the Cumberland Telephone Company of Cumberland, Iowa. This year marks the 120th year of operations for the telecommunications company, which opened its doors in 1897.

The company was originally named the Briscoe-Cumberland Telephone Company. Briscoe was a small mining town located in Adams County, Iowa. Today, the Cumberland Telephone Company is a full-service communications company offering internet, local and long distance phone service, and fiber-to-the-home packages for their customers. It also provides wireless internet services throughout the Cumberland exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I command and congratulate the Cumberland Telephone Company and its staff for providing cutting-edge telecommunication services to the Cumberland community and Southwest Iowa for the past 120 years. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Cumberland Telephone Company for their numerous achievements in the communications industry and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

REMEMBERING POTA VALLAS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pota Vurnakes Vallas, who died last week at the age of 109, surrounded by her family. A loving wife, mother and grandmother, pioneering businesswoman, and public-spirited citizen, Mrs. Vallas was one of the Fourth District's oldest residents and the matriarch of Raleigh's Greek community. Lisa and I extend our condolences to her family and her many friends and admirers in the Greek community and beyond.

Mrs. Vallas was born in 1908 in the small village of Krissfa, Greece, the eldest of ten children. In 1924 her father, Gus Vurnakes, became the first Greek immigrant to settle in Raleigh and Pota soon followed. Gus opened a fruit and soda stop in downtown Raleigh and Pota assisted him, delivering ice cream and chocolates on a horse-drawn wagon to homes and businesses in Raleigh.

In 1927, she married fellow immigrant George Vallas and began raising her family.

She and George were stalwart members of the community, helping to establish a Greek Orthodox Church in downtown Raleigh. Eventually George and Pota donated the land upon which Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church stands today.

George and Pota lost their home and business in the Great Depression. To provide for her young family, she applied to work for the Singer Sewing Company in 1931 and quickly emerged as a talented salesperson and manager. Her dream of owning her own business finally came to fruition in 1944 when she bought the distributorship of the National Sewing Machine Company and opened National Art Interiors, one of the first interior decorating businesses in Raleigh. Pota's store became a landmark for the finest furniture and fabric companies, furnishing many homes and businesses throughout the state. She ran the business with her daughters and other family members until retiring at the age of 94 in 2002.

In addition to managing a thriving company, Mrs. Vallas served on the Boards of First Citizens Bank and the North Carolina Community Foundation. She was a lifelong member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and a member of Philoptochos. She was honored with the Saint Michael's Award, the highest recognition for a layperson, for her years of dedicated service by the Greek Orthodox Diocese of America.

Mrs. Vallas was one of my most memorable constituents. I often saw her at Raleigh's Greek Festival and treasure the memory of delivering a birthday letter from President Obama to her on one such occasion. She was quick with a smile and an encouraging word. She was a woman of great energy and faith, an indomitable spirit. She leaves behind a community that she loved and that loved her in return. We join with that community in mourning her passing and honoring her exemplary life.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY AND BILL KOENIG

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 Shirley and Bill Koenig of Underwood, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on October 26, 2017 and were married in Treynor, Iowa in 1957.

Shirley and Bill's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th 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 command this great couple on their 60th 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.