



Chris Spear  
President & Chief Executive Officer

November 2, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of the American Trucking Associations (ATA), I write in strong support of H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which will boost the U.S. economy, promote critical business investment, and create good-paying American jobs. ATA recently hosted President Trump in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and strongly endorsed the tax reform framework that his Administration worked to define with Congress. We are pleased to see this framework now embodied in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, to the benefit of workers, small businesses, and families across the economic spectrum.

Trucking is the backbone of our economy, representing one of every 16 American jobs in the private sector and employing more than 7 million American workers, including 3 million drivers with a median annual income of \$55,000. Trucks collect nearly 80 percent of America's freight transportation revenue, and serve every community of our nation—80 percent of which depend solely upon trucks to bring food, clothing, and life's necessities. And trucking is predominantly a small business industry, with 97 percent of our companies operating fewer than twenty trucks.

From this perspective, we fully endorse the three basic principles embodied in the tax reform package—lowering tax rates on business income, broadening the tax base to render it more equitable, and significantly simplifying the enormously complex tax code—as they will all benefit motor carriers. Lowering the corporate rate will free up cash to invest in newer, safer, cleaner, and more efficient equipment, while also helping carriers pay drivers more and make necessary investments in workforce development. Broadening the tax base to allow such rate reductions will eliminate special tax breaks enjoyed by industries that are more heavily dominated by large business entities than trucking. Tax simplification will alleviate the very considerable burden of compliance the current tax code imposes on small businesses.

ATA recognizes that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act must now navigate the legislative process, which may result in further modification to some provisions in H.R.1. However, we believe the package as a whole represents the best chance in thirty years to accomplish the tax reforms that all elements of the American economy so vitally need. Compromises may be necessary, but I urge you to support the expeditious enactment of comprehensive tax reform. None of us can afford to miss the opportunity the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act represents.

Sincerely,

Chris Spear, President & CEO  
American Trucking Associations