



March 25, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
301 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
U.S. House of Representatives
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Reps. Brady and Bishop:

On behalf of the National Small Business Association, I would like to thank you for your leadership in crafting the *Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015 (H.R. 1105)*. As the nation's oldest nonpartisan small business advocacy group, NSBA reaches more than 65,000 small businesses nation-wide, and reducing the tax burden on small businesses remains a top priority for NSBA. We are pleased to support this measure's efforts to repeal both the estate and the generation-skipping transfer taxes.

Small-business owners consistently have identified permanent repeal of the estate tax as one of their most pressing concerns. The current system depletes the estates of those who have saved for their entire lives, force family businesses to liquidate and lay off workers, and motivate business owners to make financial decisions for estate tax purposes—rather than for their business or investment reasons.

The future of the estate tax is a cause for major concern for small, family-owned businesses, many of which are struggling to guarantee that their business survives into the next generation. According to NSBA data, more than 70 percent of all family businesses do not survive through the second generation and 87 percent do not make it to a third generation. NSBA strongly believes family-owned businesses should not be punished because they have been successful or because the owner passes away. It is crucial that we allow these small businesses to get back to growing their business, hiring employees, and focusing on expansion, rather than working to ensure their families aren't bankrupted by estate taxes.

To that end, H.R. 1105 would provide much needed relief and certainty, allowing businesses to make sound economic decisions so they can continue to grow and thrive. It is time the estate tax on small business ends, permanently.

NSBA supports H.R. 1105, and looks forward to working with you to bring this legislation to the House floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Todd McCracken
President & CEO