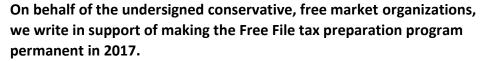




The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin United States Treasury Secretary Department of the Treasury 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20220



Dear Secretary Mnuchin:



The Free File system is an innovative public-private solution to tax complexity that has served more than 40 million taxpayers and saved \$1.3 billion in preparation costs since its inception. The program offers 70 percent of taxpayers, or those making less than \$64,000, access to electronic filing software provided by leading private companies free of charge.



AMERICANCOMMIT

Today, it is difficult or impossible for most taxpayers to file their own taxes. The tax code is more than 75,000 pages long and contains over 2.4 million words. This complexity forces American families and businesses to spend more than 8.9 billion hours and \$400 billion complying with the code every year.



Free File is critical to addressing this complexity. The program has frequently been reauthorized since it was introduced in 2008, and has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress.



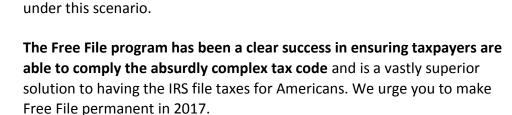
Despite the success of this program, some, like Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) have called for the program to be eliminated based on the notion that the government should have sole responsibility over tax preparation. In place of making Free File permanent, she has called for having the IRS file taxes for individuals as their solution to tax complexity.



This would be a mistake and would empower the IRS – an agency that already struggles to fulfill its existing responsibilities to taxpayers – with even broader power over the paychecks of American families. Having taxpayers receive a bill from the IRS would also be a huge conflict of interest given the agency already assesses tax liability for taxpayers.







complexity associated with an expanded responsibility. Given the existing

everyday taxpayers to know if they were paying the right amount of taxes

In addition, it would require an increase in IRS manpower due to

complexity in the code, it would be difficult – if not impossible – for





Grover Norquist President, Americans for Tax Reform



Phil Kerpen President, American Commitment

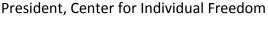


Dan Weber President, Association of Mature American Citizens

Norm Singleton President, Campaign for Liberty



Jeff Mazzella



Tom Schatz President, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Katie McAuliffe Executive Director, Digital Liberty

George Landrith President, Frontiers of Freedom



Mario H. Lopez President, Hispanic Leadership Fund

Tom Giovanetti President, Institute for Policy Innovation















Allen Gutierrez
National Executive Director, The Latino Coalition

Seton Motley
President, Less Government

Colin Hanna President, Let Freedom Ring

Charles Sauer President, Market Institute

Pete Sepp President, National Taxpayers Union

Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

David Williams
President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Berin Szoka President, TechFreedom

Cc:

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Kevin Brady Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means U.S. House of Representatives 1102 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch Chairman, Committee on Finance U.S. Senate 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510