

February 23, 2017

# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

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



THE  
AMERICAN  
CONSERVATIVE  
UNION

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

**On behalf of the undersigned conservative, free market organizations, we write in support of making the Free File tax preparation program permanent in 2017.**

AMERICAN COMMITMENT

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.

Amac

The Voice of Americans 50+

*Better for You. Better for America.*

**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.

Campaign  
for  
Liberty

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.

CFIF  
CENTER FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

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.

COUNCIL FOR

CITIZENS  
AGAINST  
GOVERNMENT  
WASTE

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.



In addition, it would require an increase in IRS manpower due to complexity associated with an expanded responsibility. Given the existing complexity in the code, it would be difficult – if not impossible – for everyday taxpayers to know if they were paying the right amount of taxes under this scenario.



**The Free File program has been a clear success in ensuring taxpayers are able to comply the absurdly complex tax code** and is a vastly superior solution to having the IRS file taxes for Americans. We urge you to make Free File permanent in 2017.

Sincerely,



Grover Norquist  
President, Americans for Tax Reform

Dan Schneider  
Executive Director, American Conservative Union

Phil Kerpen  
President, American Commitment



Dan Weber  
President, Association of Mature American Citizens

Norm Singleton  
President, Campaign for Liberty



Jeff Mazzella  
President, Center for Individual Freedom

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

