



March 6, 2017

Chairman Kevin Brady
U.S. House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady:

The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) was founded in 1975 in Washington, D.C. to serve as the first advocacy organization for all women business owners.

Forty-two years later we are proud to carry on the tradition of our founders and represent the more than 9.4 million women business owners in this country.

Women business owners are a diverse and strong subset of our nation's business community and a significant contributor to our nation's economy.

According to the American Express OPEN/Womenable 2015 report, women business owners employ nearly 7.9 million people, and generate \$1.5 trillion in sales as of 2015. Women-owned firms (51% or more) account for 30% of all privately held firms and contribute 14% of employment and 12% of revenues.

More than ¼ of NAWBO members exceed more than \$1M in annual revenue. In addition, we are also proud to represent solopreneurs, micro business owners and women whose businesses occupy the SME space. While some of our members are subject to the U.S. corporate tax rates, many of them also pay taxes at their personal income tax rate, depending on how their business is structured. We see firsthand within our membership the need for comprehensive tax reform and are confident our economy would reap the benefits of such reform.

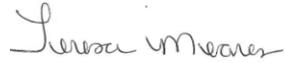
To highlight the diversity of our membership and their expertise in areas like tax reform, we have assembled National Issue Councils this year. Should you need anecdotes or statistics, please know that in addition to our National Board, you may also avail yourself of our National Taxes and Regulations Council. Comprised of tax lawyers, financial planners, tax accountants, and other experts in their respective fields, our Council is ready to assist you as you move forward with the important and complicated work of reforming our nation's tax code.

Under a reformed tax code women business owners would be freed up to reinvest more revenue back into their businesses and their communities by expanding and scaling their businesses. We also believe a revised tax code could result in a resurgence of start-ups in our country. As you know, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, the net number of businesses created has been falling. In fact there were 700,000 fewer net businesses created from 2005 to 2014 than from 1985 to 1994.

Comprehensive tax reform that understands the important role businesses of all sizes play in creating jobs and growing our nation's economy will be vital to putting our nation on a path of sustained and dynamic economic growth.

It is my pleasure to write to you to convey our organization's support for comprehensive tax reform and our readiness to work with you moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Meares".

Teresa Meares
NAWBO National Board Chair