

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 11, 2013

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
The U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Hatch:

Manufacturing and manufacturing jobs are the backbone of the American economy. The industry employs nearly 12 million workers and contributes more than \$1.6 trillion annually to the national economy. The manufacturing sector has played a significant role in the ongoing American economic recovery. We write to you out of concern for the number of expiring tax provisions that support the continued growth of the industry.

American manufacturers already face many challenges, including the high cost of producing goods in comparison to other countries. Congress can help even the playing field by providing an advantageous tax climate that enhances global competitiveness and encourages manufacturers to continue making domestic investments, creating jobs, and leading the economy.

Businesses need certainty in both the short-term and long-term. An expiration of important tax benefits could have a negative economic impact. Please consider keeping in place those policies that have a proven track record.

We understand the desire to hold off on addressing expiring tax provisions until they can be considered in a comprehensive tax reform effort. We believe tax reform is a worthy goal and greatly appreciate your pursuit of that objective. Until then, these expiring tax provisions have a real world impact on American manufacturers and the people they employ. Retroactively continuing them would also blunt the potentially positive impact. It is important that Congress provides job creators with certainty as soon as possible.

Following disheartening job losses in the last decade, domestic manufacturing has begun to rebound, adding hundreds of thousands of jobs in recent years. We need that growth to continue, and Congress has a responsibility to promote pro-growth policies because when American manufacturing thrives, workers have jobs, the middle class grows, and the economy is strong.

We are confident that the U.S. will maintain its status as a global manufacturing leader, but to ensure success, we need to give our manufacturers the certainty necessary to continue to grow. Therefore, we ask that you provide clarity and consider continuing the tax provisions that encourage American manufacturers to invest, innovate, and continue to create jobs.



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
United States Senator