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United States Senate

July 26, 2013

Senator Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

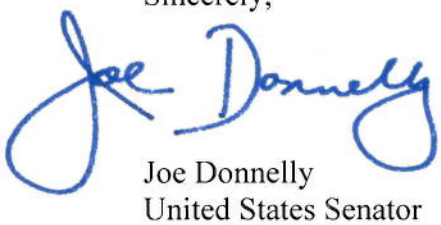
Dear Chairman Baucus & Ranking Member Hatch:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Finance Committee's ongoing effort to produce a bipartisan tax reform package. I commend the Committee for seeking ideas from all of our colleagues because I believe bipartisan cooperation is critical to achieving meaningful reform. We can all agree that tax reform should reflect our most basic priorities—building a strong middle class; encouraging businesses to invest, innovate, and create jobs; and fostering an environment that allows American companies to be even more competitive in the global economy.

Tax reform is also an important opportunity to address the fiscal challenges facing our nation. As we continue our efforts to keep tax rates low, it is important that we also use a portion of the revenue realized through the elimination of inefficient tax provisions and loopholes for the purpose of deficit reduction. I encourage the Committee to use the tax reform process to achieve deficit reduction that, when combined with necessary spending cuts, will put our country on the path to a balanced budget.

I thank the Committee for taking on this important task, and I look forward to working with its members on both sides of the aisle to develop a tax code that is fair and fosters continued economic growth. While this process will require difficult choices, I strongly encourage the Committee to use this opportunity to lay the foundation for long-term economic growth by investing in the fiscal security of our country.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator