

April 10, 2012

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

We the undersigned business organizations are writing to express our support for The Paying a Fair Share Act (S. 2230).

Our members have been vocal supporters in the call for a Buffett rule since it was first raised. Our members who include owners of small and medium sized businesses and executives of larger corporations, recognize that everyone needs to pay their fair share for the public services and infrastructure tax revenue buys. Our members recognize our communities need sustained investments in jobs and infrastructure to restore our communities to economic health and vitality. They recognize that those who have prospered most from our society have the obligation to support government investment in a strong economy and healthy communities.

Nearly 500 business organizations, executives and small business owners from across the country have expressed their support for upper income taxpayers paying more in taxes, by signing [our petition in support of ending Bush tax cuts on household income of more than \\$250,000 in income](#). We have issued reports such as [The Business Case for Restoring Tax Rates for High-Income Taxpayers to Pre-Bush Levels](#).

Our members know that our economy was much stronger when tax rates on millionaires and billionaires were higher and our tax system did a better job of reinforcing Main Street investment over Wall Street speculation. Job creation was much better before the Bush tax cuts, which have starved our government of revenues needed for rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, converting to clean energy, educating our kids, retraining workers and spurring the research and innovation needed to succeed in the new economy.

In February, the American Sustainable Business Council, Main Street Alliance and Small Business Majority released a [nationwide, scientific poll on small business owners attitudes about access to credit, regulations and taxes](#). According to the poll, 58 percent of small business owners felt households earning more than \$1 million were paying less than their fair share of taxes, and 57 percent of those surveyed supported raising taxes on those with more than \$1 million in income.

Contrary to the misperception that small business owners would bear the brunt of a Buffett rule tax, just one of the 500 small business owners surveyed reported a household income of more than \$1 million. This is in line with IRS data that makes clear the vast majority of small business owners are middle class Americans, not the millionaires they are made out to be by opponents of

raising taxes on the wealthy. Many of those business owners who are millionaires understand that paying their fair share of taxes is best for the country and good for their businesses.

We encourage you to support The Paying a Fair Share Act.

Sincerely,

David Levine
Chief Executive Officer
American Sustainable Business Council

Sam Blair
Director
Main Street Alliance

Holly Sklar
Executive Director
Business for Shared Prosperity

Frank Knapp, Jr.
CEO and President
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce

Heidi Pickman
California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity

Alisa Gravitz
Executive Director
Green America

Mitch Rofsky
Chair
New Voice of Business

Mike Lapham
Director
Responsible Wealth

Ann Manning
Coordinator
Wealth for the Common Good