



MEMBER DAY HEARING MEMO

To: Congresswoman Emilia Strong Sykes

Prepared By: Owen Beal

Date: Monday, January 20, 2025

Re: Ways and Means Committee – Full Committee Organizational Meeting and Hearing titled “*America Builds: The State of the Nation’s Transportation System*”

SUMMARY: The Full Committee on Ways and Means will hold a Member Day Hearing at 10:00 a.m. ET on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, in 2167 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

This hearing will provide Members an opportunity to highlight tax priorities important to them and their congressional districts. The Committee has developed a robust legislative agenda for the 119th Congress and is eager for Members to provide testimony regarding key issues under the Committee’s tax jurisdiction.

ORGANIZATION: House Full Committee on Ways and Means

WHAT: Member Day Hearing

ROLE: Attend and address the Committee

WHEN: 10:15 AM

WHERE: 1100 Longworth HOB

WITNESSES:

- *Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R-PA-07)*
- *Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY-06)*
- *Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT-04)*
- *Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY-01)*
- *Pablo Jose Hernandez (R-Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico)*
- *Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-03)*
- *Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-OH-13)*
- *Rep. Nellie Pou (D-NJ-09)*
- *Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA-09)*
- *Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA-02)*
- *Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN-04)*
- *Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI-03)*
- *Rep. Warren Davidson (R-OH-08)*
- *Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO-05)*
- *Rep. John James (R-MI-10)*
- *Rep. Vince Fong (R-CA-20)*
- *Rep. Riley Moore (R-WV-02)*
- *Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL-02)*
- *Rep. Troy Downing (R-MT-02)*
- *Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL-05)*
- *Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-TX-38)*
- *Rep. Brad Knott (R-NC-13)*
- *Rep. Tony Wied (R-WI-08)*
- *Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ-02)*
- *Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA-03)*

- *Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-ND-AL)*
- *Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meecks (R-IA-01)*
- *Rep. Young Kim (R-CA-40)*
- *Rep. Keith Self (R-TX-03)*
- *Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-TN-01)*
- *Rep. Erin Houchin (R-IN-09)*
- *Rep. Laura Gillen (D-NY-04)*
- *Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA-09)*

SUGGESTED REMARKS

Thank you, Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal, for holding this hearing today and offering Members this opportunity to speak on tax priorities that are so important to our districts. I appreciate both of your leadership in this committee and I'm looking forward to assessing and improving our nation's tax code for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional district and for Americans across the country in the 119th Congress.

I also want to thank Representative Mike Carey, for looking after the needs of Ohioans during your time in Congress. I look forward to continuing our work together protecting America's hard earned Social Security benefits as we've done with our Social Security Claw Back Act – and I hope to join you in representing Ohioans on the Ways and Means Committee in the 120th Congress.

Before speaking on priorities for the upcoming Congress, I want to highlight a policy from the 118th Congress that is driving the conversation in my home District; the Social Security Fairness Act.

The Social Security Fairness Act eliminates the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset from the Social Security Act, which previously prevented public service employees from receiving their full Social Security benefits if they also received other forms of retirement benefits, such as a pension. There's no good reason why teachers, firefighters, and other public service employees who have earned their retirement benefits should not receive them.

This important law not only provides relief to thousands of my constituents who are frustrated they couldn't receive their full Social Security benefits – it demonstrates what Congress is capable of when we work together in bipartisan fashion.

We should keep this example of bipartisanship in mind as we prepare for the upcoming tax debate. With so many provisions from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expiring, we have a great opportunity to lower costs for the American people and give families a better chance at the American Dream.

For instance, Congress could expand the Earned Income Tax Credit by doubling the credit percentage for families with children and reinstate the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, which cut child poverty in half.

Both of these policies are included in my first bill of the 119th Congress, the Lower Your Taxes Act, which, if implemented, would expand the middle class by reducing costs and expanding opportunity for everyday working families.

This bill would also reverse some of the unpopular policies of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and raise the corporate tax rate from 21% back to 28%. After being in place since 2017, it is clear that lowering taxes for corporations fails to have a positive impact on the middle class. We instead know that the best way to deliver for families and workers is to invest in families and workers – not greedy corporations.

This year's tax debate gives us a chance to do right by the American people and ensure they can make ends meet in the face of rising costs. I hope that this Committee takes these issues into consideration as we look to improve the lives of America's hardest workers.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

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