



November 24, 2015

The Honorable Steven Palazzo
United States House of Representatives
331 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Tax Extension Assurance Bill

Dear Representative Palazzo:

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) commends you on your efforts to provide automatic and consistent tax relief to individuals and businesses impacted by natural disasters. Specifically, we support the Tax Extension Assurance Bill which allows an automatic 90-day extension of certain federal tax deadlines, or such longer period of up to one year as the Secretary may otherwise specify, in the case of federally declared disasters.

Although we cannot prevent natural events from occurring, predict when or where they will occur, or predict the scope of damages that will result, we know disasters occur annually and regularly throughout the country. Each year, the far-reaching effects of these events impact hundreds of thousands of people throughout the United States. Presently, the federal government, including the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), deals with each of these occurrences as an isolated event, and relief offered through the tax system varies, for the most part, with each event. This process results in taxpayers receiving different treatment for similar losses and not knowing what tax treatment they will receive until Congress or the IRS enacts some form of relief, which occurs on an unpredictable timeline.

The AICPA has been a long-time advocate of implementing permanent disaster tax relief provisions¹ that can allow taxpayers to promptly receive the relief they need after a natural disaster. Our members appreciate and support the Tax Extension Assurance Bill. We believe this bill offers taxpayers certainty and fairness,² while reducing the administrative burdens on victims and the IRS to react to unexpected disasters.

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¹ The AICPA submitted a comment letter to the House Committee on Ways & Means, "[Request for Permanent Tax Provisions Related to Disaster Relief](#)," dated November 22, 2013.

² Certainty and fairness are examples from AICPA's Tax Policy Concept Statement No. 1: [Guiding Principles for Good Tax Policy: Framework for Evaluating Tax Proposals](#), issued March 2001.

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The AICPA is the world's largest member association representing the accounting profession, with more than 412,000 members in 144 countries, and a history of serving the public interest since 1887. Our members advise clients on federal, state and international tax matters and prepare income and other tax returns for millions of Americans. Our members provide services to individuals, not-for-profit organizations, small and medium-sized businesses, as well as America's largest businesses.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this important bill. If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 523-1051 or tlewis@sisna.com; Kenneth Rubin, Chair, AICPA Individual & Self-Employed Tax Technical Resource Panel, at (314) 290-3417 or ken.rubin@rubinbrown.com; or Amy Wang, AICPA Senior Technical Manager, at (202) 434-9264 or awang@aicpa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy K. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Troy K. Lewis, CPA
Chair, AICPA Tax Executive Committee