Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2008

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McCrery
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139-E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel and Ranking Member McCrery,

This week, Americans across the nation filed their federal income tax returns. Residents of states without an income tax who itemized their returns were able to deduct their state sales taxes from their federal income taxes.

Unfortunately, as you know, the sales tax deduction expired at the end of last year and must be extended in order for residents to deduct their sales taxes again next year. With this being said, we encourage you to make the state sales tax deduction permanent, or extend it, so that our constituents will continue to be treated equally by the federal government, regardless of the tax system employed by their state.

The issues of fairness, certainty, and predictability in our tax code should be of utmost importance to this Congress, especially in light of our nation's current economic condition. During these trying economic times, we believe it is critical for our constituents to know whether a tax deduction or incentive will be available in the future so that they can make informed decisions about their finances.

Our goal is to provide our constituents with the same predictability afforded to residents of states with an income tax, and to preclude the need for retroactive extensions. Therefore, we hope that you will make the sales tax deduction permanent, or at least, include a provision to extend it in any appropriate tax package that the Committee considers this year.

We greatly appreciate your support on this issue in the past, we thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,

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