



March 15, 2021

Representative Tina Orwell
33rd District
JLOB 326
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

CC: Reps. Ramel, Ryu, Wylie, Frame, Ormsby, Valdez, Pollet, Thai, Chopp, Macri, Harris-Talley

Dear Representative Orwell:

The undersigned organizations oppose H.B. 1465 which would double the top estate tax rate in Washington from 20 percent to 40 percent, making it harder for family owned and operated businesses, farms and ranches to pass to the next generation of ownership. Only 12 states have retained an estate tax and Washington state currently has the highest rate at 20 percent and the third lowest exemption at \$2.193 million. This is on top of the current 40 percent federal estate tax with an \$11.7 million exemption. Forbes lists Washington as a top state “Where Not to Die in 2021” and hiking the already burdensome death tax in Washington would encourage businesses and retirees to leave the state.

Washington’s residents also oppose the estate tax, a 2016 poll conducted by YouGov found that 56 percent of Washington likely voters want to see the estate tax repealed. H.B. 1465 would do the opposite of what the majority of Washingtonians support. In fact, only 13 percent supported increasing the estate tax as H.B. 1465 would do.

It makes no sense to require grieving families to pay a confiscatory tax on their loved one’s nest egg. Far too often this tax is paid by selling family assets like farms and businesses. Other times, employees of the family business must be laid off and payrolls slashed. No one should be punished for fulfilling the American dream.

The negative effects of the estate tax make permanent repeal the only solution for family businesses and farms. This legislation will hurt Washington’s family businesses, destroy jobs, and hurt the state’s economy.

Signed,



Western Pallet Association



Washington Cattlemen's Association



Washington Cattle Feeders Association



Western Hardwood Association



Northwest Tire Dealers Association



Spencer Cabinetry



Bellmont Cabinets



American Business Defense Council



National Black Chamber of Commerce



Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International



National Association of Electrical Distributors



National Confectioners Association



National Cattleman's Beef Association



Forest Landowners Association



Americans for Tax Reform



Retail Packaging Association



FPDA – Motion and Control Network



International Sealing Distribution Association



American Foundry Society



NAHAD – The Association for Hose and Accessories Distribution



Wholesale Florists & Florist Supplier Association



Security Hardware Distributors Association



Equipment Services Association



National Electrical Contractors Association



Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association



Global Cold Chain Alliance



National Taxpayers Union



Consumer Action for a Strong Economy



AMAC Action



Taxpayers Protection Alliance



Center for Freedom and Prosperity



Independent Electrical Contractors



National Community Pharmacists Association



60 Plus Association



American Values



Less Government



National Tax Limitation Committee



Family Business Coalition