



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY**



July 23, 2018

Dear Representatives,

We write today on behalf of our millions of activists and members across the country to express our strong opposition to the MARKET CHOICE Act of 2018, which includes new taxes that are harmful to the economy and drive up the cost of everyday essentials for all Americans. Our groups have long stood in firm opposition to a carbon tax and a border adjustment tax—both of which are included in the misguided MARKET CHOICE Act.

Our organizations are focused on helping to eliminate internal and external barriers that prevent Americans from achieving prosperity and living their dream. A carbon tax and a companion border adjustment tax would be an enormous new burden on American businesses and families, and would harm the least fortunate the most. These proposed taxes would destroy jobs, raise home energy bills, gasoline prices and increase the cost of goods and services across the board.

Last year, the American people and their representatives in Congress rightly rejected the border adjustment tax that was originally proposed as part of comprehensive tax reform. Voters and lawmakers alike recognized the harm that such a tax could do to the American economy and the high costs that would hit consumers along the way. The MARKET CHOICE Act would resurrect this bad idea and make it worse. It would increase the cost of imported energy sources and other “energy intensive” products to match the cost imposed by the domestic tax. This would only add to the already heavy burden of the proposed energy tax. These harmful proposals should be swiftly rejected by members of Congress.

The MARKET CHOICE Act would swap in these new taxes to replace the current federal gas tax, claiming that the change is the solution to meeting our nation’s infrastructure needs. This exchange is ill-advised. Swapping the tax will not solve the myriad of problems that currently plague the highway trust fund, which is intended to pay for the building and maintenance of our nation’s highways system. More tax dollars are not a solution when spending is out of control; lawmakers must stop raiding the trust fund and diverting gas tax dollars to unrelated wasteful projects and instead prioritize projects of true national priority.

We believe that affordable and reliable energy is instrumental to ensuring all Americans can prosper. Carbon tax proponents believe that making traditional energy more expensive will encourage consumers and businesses to switch to alternatives sources. But imposing a tax to make traditional energy more expensive with the intention of further propping up renewable sources will not change the fact that these still lack the technological capabilities to provide energy efficiently and affordably, making it harder for struggling families to make ends meet or for businesses to keep the lights on.

We urge all members of Congress to swiftly reject this misguided tax increase on American families and businesses. It will be a drag on our economy, undermine the positive impact of recent tax and regulatory reforms, and ultimately make it harder for people to live out their American dream.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner

Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

David Velazquez
Executive Director
The LIBRE Initiative

Nathan Nascimento
Executive Vice President
Freedom Partners

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. Freedom Partners is a non-profit, non-partisan chamber of commerce dedicated to protecting freedom and expanding opportunity for every American—no matter where they live, what they do or how much money they have.