



National Association of Estate Planners & Councils

1120 Chester Avenue - Suite 470, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

January 26, 2010

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

The Honorable Max Baucus, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Camp
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1139E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Gentlemen:

The National Association of Estate Planners & Councils is a national non-profit organization representing over 28,000 members of the estate planning community in the disciplines of law, accounting, trust services and insurance and financial planning. We are the largest multi-disciplinary estate planning association in the United States.

As you are aware, Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA) provided for a phased in increase in transfer tax exemptions and lower transfer tax rates through 2009, followed by a one year elimination of federal estate and generation skipping taxes in 2010 and a sunset of the entire bill in 2011.

In 2009, the media reported that Congress intended to adopt a carryover of the 2009 tax laws to 2010. However, 2009 passed without any extension legislation passing.

The 2010 provisions of EGTRRA, coupled with the uncertainty of whether Congress will pass retroactive legislation in 2010, has created tremendous uncertainty for many Americans. Clients and their advisors cannot plan for how to react to taxes, when there is no certainty of what those taxes may be.

Moreover, the terms of estate plans for most Americans do not reflect the 2010 changes because virtually no one expected the 2010 provisions of EGTRRA to apply. Now clients do not know whether they should revise their plans or wait to see what, if anything, Congress finally adopts.

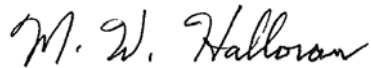
The longer Congress goes without passing final and permanent legislation, the more complex and conflict laden the estate planning and probate process will become for many Americans.

The Association of Choice for Estate Planning Professionals

We strongly urge you to act quickly to address the confusion on transfer taxes in 2010 and to pass permanent legislation as soon as possible. We look forward to working with you to achieve simplicity, effectiveness and efficiency as Congress considers legislation regarding the estate and gift tax system. We stand ready to offer suggestions on the terms of permanent tax legislation.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. W. Halloran". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Michael W. Halloran, CLU, ChFC, AEP®, CFP®, REBC, RHU, LUTCF, MSFS, MSM
President