



**Municipal
Bonds for
America**

Via Electronic Mail

November 3, 2017

Executive Committee

Chair

*Stephen K. Benjamin
Mayor, Columbia, SC*

Vice Chair

*Kevin M. Burke
President and CEO
Airports Council
International—N.A.*

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Sue Kelly

*President and CEO
American Public Power
Association*

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*Debra Chromy
President
Education Finance Council*

George Friedlander

*Managing Partner
Court Street Group*

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leaders
Schumer and Pelosi:

The Municipal Bonds for America (MBFA) Coalition is devoted to preserving the tax-exempt status of all municipal bonds, including advance refundings and private activity bonds (PABs). MBFA is a non-partisan stakeholder coalition, led by state and local government officials who rely upon affordable borrowing through the critical financing tools mentioned above to finance airports, universities, schools, roads, bridges, electric facilities, hospitals, affordable housing, water infrastructure, and student loan financing.

As Congress considers enacting tax reform legislation in the coming weeks, we strongly support the decision to maintain the current-law tax exemption for most municipal bonds, but urge you to oppose provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that would eliminate the tax exemption for PABs and advance refunding bonds.

PABs provide a critical source of funding for a variety of important projects, including financing for non-profit hospitals, colleges, schools, public-private partnerships, including multi-family housing projects, toll-roads, airports and seaports, and even state-run student loan programs. These projects and programs foster job creation and economic development and provide reduced costs for healthcare and education.

Tax-exempt advance refundings allow state and local governments to

efficiently and successfully manage their finances, giving the necessary flexibility to take advantage of market conditions and interest rates when refinancing existing debt. This lowers the cost of borrowing for basic infrastructure projects that directly benefit taxpayers.

Eliminating the exclusion of tax-exempt PABs and advance refundings will only burden the taxpayer, as the added cost of this infrastructure financing is passed on, which is in direct conflict to the stated objective of the Act. In addition, there will be increased costs to all citizens using healthcare facilities, school facilities, airports, and toll-roads. It is imperative, now, more than ever, that Congress protect the ability of state and local governments to access cost effective capital through the use of tax-exempt municipal bonds. However, eliminating PABs and advance refundings will make state and local investments directly, and through public-private partnerships, more costly, more difficult, and will increase costs to all users of those financed facilities.

Sincerely,

African American Mayors Association

Airports Council International – N.A.

American Association of Community Colleges

American Hospital Association

American Public Power Association

Association of American Medical Colleges

Bond Dealers of America

Council of Development Finance Agencies

Education Finance Council

International Economic Development Council

Large Public Power Association

Modesto Irrigation District

National Association of Bond Lawyers

National Association of Health and Educational Facilities Finance Authorities

National Council of State Housing Agencies

National Development Council

National Water Resources Association

Southern California Public Power Authority

Springsted Incorporated

Tom Dannenberg - Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co.

CC: The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman – Senate Finance Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member – Senate Finance Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman – House Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member – House Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives