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## Senate Task Force Deadline for WOTC Feedback--Immediate Action Required

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WOTC advocates and all other stakeholders have until June 17 to e-mail letters or statements supporting WOTC, Empowerment Zones incentives, and Indian Employment Credit to the Senate Finance Committee's Employment and Community Development Task Force. Members of this task force have been charged with making recommendations to the full Senate Finance Committee on the future of WOTC and associated credits. In this announcement, it is openly soliciting the views of all stakeholders. Currently, the WOTC Program is set to expire on 12/31/2019.

This is an excellent opportunity for businesses to express their support for WOTC. Letters or statements don't have to be long. It's important to simply voice support for the continuation of the WOTC program and to site the benefits that it offers for a business and its workers.

Please read the attached Taskforce's Notice carefully. It provides guidance for replying. The guidance includes eight questions the Taskforce is interested in receiving information on. These questions basically boil down to: "Since enactment, have these credits produced the desired results; are these credits still needed; and why should they be continued?" Responses should be framed with these questions in mind.

June 17 is the last day that the task force will accept comments. Here is the address that must be used in forwarding your signed statement: [Employment&Development\\_Taskforce@finance.senate.gov](mailto:Employment&Development_Taskforce@finance.senate.gov). (There's an underscore between "Development" and "Taskforce.")

If you're an employer, it's also important to explain the benefits of WOTC for workers in terms of:

- Relief from poverty or homelessness
- Reliability and longer job tenure
- Skill improvement via on-the-job training
- Promotion and advance in wages
- Ability to take adult education courses
- Ability to work with a disability
- Becoming drug-free

You may also use all or parts of:

"The WOTC program is a pillar of the poverty safety net, it widens opportunity for the mentally and physically disabled, supports job growth for veterans and helps youth and unemployed workers get a foothold and gain experience in the workforce. WOTC works in tandem with EITC to provide income support, alleviates child poverty by affording part-time or full-time work for single parents, and is supported by many city and county economic development agencies, 33 major national veterans organizations, and the National Association of Governors Committees for Employment of People With Disabilities."

Here are the names of the eight senators serving on the Employment and Community Development Taskforce. In addition to sending a response to the e-mail mentioned above for the task force, it would be beneficial to e-mail copies of your letter or statement directly to these senators if they are from your state, or state where you have branches or operations. It would be advantageous to include the contributions of WOTC to the state's workforce and economy to emphasize the effectiveness of the program and reinforce the importance of extending it.

- Rob Portman (R-OH)
- Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
- Tim Scott (R-SC)
- James Lankford (R-OK)
- Todd Young (R-IN)
- Benjamin L Cardin (D-MD)
- Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
- Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)