

Table of Contents

National.....	2
Alabama	7
Arizona	8
California	8
Colorado.....	10
Georgia.....	11
Illinois.....	12
Indiana	13
Iowa.....	13
Kentucky.....	13
Louisiana	14
Maine	15
Maryland.....	18
Massachusetts	18
Michigan.....	19
Minnesota	19
Missouri	22
Montana.....	24
New Jersey	25
New Mexico	27
New York.....	27
North Carolina.....	28
Ohio.....	31
Oregon	31
Pennsylvania	32
Rhode Island.....	33
Tennessee	33
Texas	34
Utah.....	36

Virginia	36
Washington.....	38
West Virginia.....	39
Wisconsin.....	40

National

Interview: [Inside What Small-Business Owners Had to Say to Obama About the Fiscal Cliff](#)

Entrepreneur, Cheryl Winokur Munk, 11/30/2012

Chris Yura, the CEO and founder of [SustainU](#), an apparel company in Morgantown, W. Va., which uses only recycled material and American labor, was among those invited to the White House. Here, Yura discusses the meeting and some takeaways for small-business owners.

Interview: [Small Business Majority network entrepreneur speaks out on tax cuts](#)

Fox Business, 11/29/2012

Lisa Goodbee, president of Goodbee and Associates, started her business in 1994 with her then-newcomer’s sense of optimism and determination. Nineteen years later, she says she considers herself fortunate, with annual company earnings of \$400,000. “I worked hard for many years to build a company,” she said. “It’s a success, and there’s a price for success.”

That “price” she speaks of is set to go up when President Obama’s agenda to raise taxes on those who earn more than \$250,000 annually kicks in. Because Goodbee and Associates is registered as a sub S Corp., the earnings from her company roll onto Goodbee’s personal taxes. “I can afford it,” she said. “I am fortunate enough, and I don’t think that anyone in that tax bracket will see this make a huge difference.”

Interview: [Small Business Majority network council member talks taxes, spending at White House \(Video\)](#)

CNN, 11/28/2012

President Obama met with 15 small business owners at the White House to discuss the fiscal cliff yesterday. Lisa Goodbee is the President of Goodbee & Associates, Inc., an engineering firm in Colorado. Goosbie was one of the 15 to meet with Obama. A member of the Small Business Majority Network Council, Goosbie joins “Early Start” live from WashingtonD.C. to talk about the meeting.

[Obama Keeps Pressure On Congress Over Fiscal Cliff](#)

NPR, Scott Horsley, 11/27/2012

SCOTT HORSLEY, BYLINE: President Obama has not had much luck yet persuading congressional Republicans to adopt his tax proposal. So he's turning instead to the American people in hopes they can move Congress to see things his way. All this week, the administration will be showcasing ordinary Americans who stand to benefit if Congress agrees to keep most tax rates low while raising taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent.

Mr. Obama met today with owners of a trucking company, a construction firm, a microbrewery and Lewis Prince, who owns a vintage record store in St. Louis.

LEW PRINCE: What grows jobs in America are consumers spending money, and the average person needs that \$2- or \$3,000 a year in his pocket to help drive the economy.

[Obama Tries to Assuage Small Businesses' Fiscal Fears](#)

Bloomberg, John Tozzi, 11/27/2012

Ickert, a member of the National Small Business Association, says Obama and his aides indicated that they would try a "two-stage effort," extending the current tax rates on income under \$250,000 before yearend and then tackling thornier problems like simplifying the tax code in 2013.

That, of course, means allowing tax rates to rise for top earners' income over \$250,000 starting on New Year's Day, a move Republicans have opposed, often portraying it as a tax hike on business owners. "I am in the higher tax bracket and the 3.5 percent is not going to change my world, and it's certainly not going to drive my business decisions in terms of hiring or firing," says Lisa Goodbee, president of Colorado engineering firm [Goodbee & Associates](#), who was also in the room. "I can't say for certain that that was everyone's opinion in the room," says Goodbee, who supported Obama's campaign.

[Who Are the Small Business Owners Obama Hosted?: White House lines up stalwart supporters to counter anti-business image](#)

National Journal, Sophie Quinton and Lara Seligman, 11/27/2012

"If you look at the people going into the White House today—none of us are asking for a tax break for ourselves or for our company, or anything personal. We're here because we're patriots," said participant Lew Price, co-founder of Vintage Vinyl, Inc., a store in St. Louis, Missouri.

"We don't want to be the only generation since World War II to hand the next generation worse infrastructure, and worse schools, and worse communications systems," Price said. "Basically, the people who are defending the tax cuts for the rich are saying that it's more important that they take home 70 percent of their profits than that they take home 60 percent of their profits to help the country."

[Obama promotes tax agenda, Congress in stand-off](#)

Reuters, Richard Cowan and Jeff Mason, 11/27/2012

At the White House, small business leaders emerged from a one-hour meeting with Obama to voice support for his goal of extending low tax rates for the middle class beyond the end of the year, while letting rates rise for wealthier taxpayers.

The business owners urged Obama "to fight to keep the middle class tax cuts," said Lew Prince, co-founder of Vintage Vinyl, an independent music store in St. Louis, Mo. "What grows jobs in America is consumers spending money, and the average person needs that two or three thousand dollars a year in his pocket to help drive the economy," Prince told reporters at a news conference outside the White House.

[Small biz owners show support for ending tax cuts for wealthy](#)

The Business Journal, Wendy Strong, 11/27/2012

More than 600 small business owners and executives, including six from Wisconsin, have signaled support for a call to end Bush-era tax cuts for the top 2 percent.

The business owners signed a letter sent by the American Sustainable Business Council and Business for Shared Prosperity that called on Congress to end the tax cuts and "reinvest in America" as part of efforts to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff."

[CEOs Flock to Capital to Avert 'Cliff'](#)

Wall Street Journal, Damian Paletta and Kristina Peterson, 11/27/2012

On Tuesday afternoon, a half-dozen chief executives stood outside the White House gates in a cold November rain waiting for a meeting with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to discuss how to avert the "fiscal cliff" of tax increases and spending cuts that could short-circuit the economic recovery. At the same time, other CEOs emerged from a meeting with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

Arnulfo Ventura, co-founder of Cobá, a beverage company, was among the 15 businessowners who met the president at the White House. He joined many of his peers in worrying that going over the fiscal cliff could make consumers stop spending money during the holidays. "Our product is a little more of an impulse purchase," Mr. Ventura said of his drinks, which he said can cost \$1.99 or \$2.49 a bottle at Whole Foods.

[Interview: Small Business Majority National Govt. Affairs Director Talks Fiscal Cliff With Small Biz Owners \(Video\)](#)

HuffPost Live, 11/27/2012

[Small Business Majority Network Owner Gives Take on Tax Talks](#)

The New York Times, David Kocieniewski, 11/20/2012

If all Mr. Obama's tax proposals for wealthy Americans were enacted, they would raise \$1.6 trillion over the next decade. And an analysis by the Tax Policy Center, a nonpartisan research firm, found that the increases would be heavily weighted toward the wealthiest. Taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes over \$1 million would see average increases of \$184,504, the study found, with higher taxes on the ultrawealthy bloating that average. Those with adjusted gross incomes from \$200,000 to \$500,000 would face a tax increase averaging \$4,446, with people toward the lower end having only a modest increase and people on the higher end paying several times more.

To Ms. Zimmerman, the Cincinnati businesswoman, that amount sounds reasonable. "I'm not going to change my business decision-making process based on a few percentage points of tax increases," she said. "If it helps get the country on a better path, well, we're all in this together."

Opinion: [When a small business is not really a small business](#)

The Hill, Op-ed by Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance business network.
11/20/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum].

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent. Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes.

I want the Bush tax cuts at the top to end. It's the right thing to do for the overall health of the country. And the overall health of the country benefits my business. What my business needs is customers – not more tax cuts for the rich.

[Fiscal Cliff Letter: Small Business Owners Urge End Of Bush Tax Cuts](#)

Huffington Post, Zach Carter, 11/20/2012

More than 600 small business owners and executives wrote a letter to every member of Congress urging them to end the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy under any deal brokered to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff."

"As businesses owners, none of us hire more employees simply because someone gives us a tax cut. We hire more employees when our customers demand more of what we have to sell," the letter reads.
"When a teacher, firefighter, or construction worker building public infrastructure loses his or her job, many of us also lose a customer."

[Small business owners "nervous" about looming fiscal cliff](#)

Reuters, 11/19/2012

[SBM founder and CEO John] Arrensmeyer said that applied to less than 3 percent of the small business owners who participated in the poll, of which 47 percent identified themselves as Republicans, versus 35 percent Democrat, 8 percent independent and 10 percent who chose "other" or didn't respond.

"My customers are squarely in the middle class," said Mike Brey, owner of Fairfax, Virginia-based toy store chain [Hobby Works](#). "We got crunched pretty hard during the recession. We don't want to be looking at another 'pothole' here as we recover from what we just went through."

[Business Leaders to Washington: Tax The Rich!](#)

Mother Jones, Erika Eichelberger, 11/15/2012

The [American Sustainable Business Council](#) and [Business for Shared Prosperity](#), which represent hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, and managers—[people John Boehner had claimed would be hurt](#) by higher individual tax rates—made their case to Congress in a [letter](#). They are urging Congress to let the Bush tax cuts expire on incomes exceeding \$250,000 and to "put that money toward

programs that help the economy and business."

[How to avert the fiscal cliff without threatening small businesses](#)

Washington Post's On Small Business blog, J.D. Harrison, 11/11/2012

John Arensmeyer, chief executive of Small Business Majority, an advocacy group based in the District and California, favors raising taxes on the wealthy over eliminating tax breaks and reducing spending in areas that have benefited small firms, like allowing [breaks for businesses](#) that hire new workers or purchase new equipment to expire as scheduled in 2013.

The Seattle-based Main Street Alliance sent a letter to party leaders in both chambers of Congress echoing the same sentiment, asking lawmakers to eliminate tax cuts for the wealthy that it says "never seem to 'trickle down.'"

Opinion: [New Poll Dispels Myth That Entrepreneurs Want High-Income Tax Cuts Preserved](#)

The Huffington Post, John Arensmeyer, Founder and CEO, Small Business Majority, 10/29/2012

The majority of small employers in the poll -- more of whom identify as Republican than Democrat, an important distinction given the partisan nature of this debate -- believe allowing tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent to expire at the end of the year is the right thing to do in light of our budget crisis.

[Poll: Most small business owners favor higher taxes on wealthy](#)

The Business Journals, 10/26/2012

More than half of small business owners think raising taxes on high-income Americans is necessary given the federal government's debt crisis. That's according to a [poll conducted for Small Business Majority](#), a Democratic-leaning organization, by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, a Democratic polling firm. But before you dismiss these findings as partisan, note this: 47 percent of the 500 small business owners interviewed identified themselves as Republicans vs. 35 percent who identified themselves as Democrats.

[Small businesses disagree with CEOs, say tax wealthiest](#)

Yahoo! Small Business Advisor, Adrienne Burke, 10/25/2012

But Small Business Majority member Mike Brey recalls how much stronger his business was when the federal budget was balanced. He said he would be willing to pay higher taxes if it helped get the economy on track and pay down the debt. "For me, going back to those tax rates is the tradeoff for having a stronger economy and more customers. It's a trade off I am absolutely willing to make," he told Yahoo! Small Business Advisor.

[What Small Businesses Really Think About the Issues](#)

Think Progress, 10/19/2012

Mike Brey, owner of Hobby Works in Fairfax, Va., wants to set the record straight on the Bush tax cuts—cuts on those with income above \$250,000. Despite some saying that allowing the cuts to expire will hurt small businesses, the vast majority of small business owners like him simply won't be affected. Allowing the tax rates to go back to where they were will help bolster the economy and with it, Mike's customer base—the middle class.

Opinion: [Debate fact-checking long overdue - Hooray for Candy!](#)

The Hill, Op-ed by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, American Sustainable Business Council, 10/17/12 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Fortunately for whatever reason, the misleading statements about small business and the Bush tax cuts stopped last night. However, the inaccurate information has been put in the public record and needs to be corrected. While a few of us small-business owners might be considered wealthy, the vast majority of us will not be negatively impacted by allowing the tax cuts on the top two income tax brackets to expire. And all of us will continue making hiring decisions based on consumer demand, not our personal income tax rates.

[Myth Busted: Poll Shows Entrepreneurs Would let High-Income Tax Cuts Expire](#)

American Forum, John Arensmeyer, Founder & CEO of Small Business Majority, 11/20/2012

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked across the nation is whether small businesses' hiring ability will suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year. Recently released scientific opinion polling shows what real small business owners think, and it might surprise you.

[End the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent](#)

The Hill, Op-ed by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic in Portland, Oregon and co-chair of Main Street Alliance of Oregon, 7/25/2012

So if politicians really want to help small businesses, they should focus on how to bring more customers in our doors and stop wasting time defending extra tax cuts for the richest Americans. How do we get more customers? Rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges, stop cutting education, quit laying off teachers and first responders, and extend the Bush tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans – that's the way to bring more customers into our businesses. But if we take the nearly \$1 trillion we would raise from ending the extra Bush tax cuts for income over \$250,000 and hand it right back to the top 2 percent, we won't have the resources to do these things.

[End the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent](#)

The Hill, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/25/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first \$250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I'm all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

Alabama

Opinion: [How to Help Small Business](#)

Montgomery Advertiser, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte,

Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance business network. 11/23/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

[Note from a Wealthy American: Oppose GOP's tax breaks](#)

Montgomery Advertiser, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share....

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under \$250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

Arizona

Opinion: [More tax cuts for wealthiest is not right and is not smart](#)

Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune, Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/6/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share....

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under \$250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

California

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] Bells Gardens Sun Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called “job creators” will have an adverse effect on the economy....

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] City Terrace Comet Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] Commerce Comet Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] East Los Angeles Brooklyn Belvedere Comet Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] Eastside Sun Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] Mexican-American Sun Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] Montebello Comet Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] Monterey Park Comet Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] Northeast Sun Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] *Vernon Sun* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires](#)

[Los Angeles] *Wyvernwood Chronicle* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Interview: [Interview with John Arensmeyer: Is Small Business a Job Generator? \(Audio\)](#)

KCRW 89.9 FM Southern California, Warren Olney, 10/16/2012

"Small business" may be crucial to the American ideal of small-town, independent entrepreneurship, but is it really the engine of job growth claimed by the President and Mitt Romney? We hear some contrasting opinions.

[Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent...Like Me](#)

Compton Bulletin, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share...

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under \$250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

Colorado

[Small Business Owners Rally Tax Cuts](#)

KREX News Room, Courtney Griffin, 12/1/2012

Residents rallying had two messages. One, to support the middle class continuation of the Bush Tax Cuts, which would ease the tax burden for folks making less than \$250,000 a year. Two, ending the Bush Tax Cuts for those making \$250,000 a year or more; ultimately raising their taxes by nearly four percent.

"The middle class are the ones who support this country and they need to stand and say, 'get this bill passed'," said Maria Keenan, owner of Keenan Construction.

[Budget cuts would be devastating](#)

Denver Post, Oped by Michele Conroy, teacher at Sandrock Elementary School in Craig, 9/05/2012

In dealing with the fiscal hangover from two wars, the Bush tax cuts and the effects of the worst recession since the Great Depression, Congress agreed to an automatic \$1.2 trillion budget cut if a

deal to reduce the deficit hadn't been found by the end of the year. Guess what? They still haven't found a budget solution, and the cuts are coming our way at the end of the semester.

While it is clear that we have to deal with our collective federal budget crisis, shortsighted budget cuts for education put Colorado, our kids and ultimately our future economy at risk. If we are going to protect education for the middle class and make investments that strengthen our economy, we are going to have to ask for a "fair share" tax plan.

[End the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2%](#)

The [Salida] Mountain Mail, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/30/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first \$250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I'm all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

Georgia

[Opinion: Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts For The Richest 2 Percent](#)

Atlanta Inquirer, Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 10/13/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share....

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under \$250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

[Stand Up for the Good Name of Small Business](#)

The Atlanta Inquirer, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 8/11/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first \$250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I'm all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

Illinois

Opinion: [Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts For The Richest 2 Percent](#)

Chicago Neighborhood Star, Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/6/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Business owners like me know that restoring taxes to Clinton–era rates on the portion of our profits above \$250,000 in household income will have no effect on the decisions we make at our companies about hiring more workers. Businesses were booming back then, creating millions of new jobs.

Opinion: [Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts For The Richest 2 Percent, Like Me](#)

Chicago Southtown, Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/7/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Opinion: [Government Spending Can Aid, Not Hinder, Businesses](#)

[Oak Lawn-Burbank] Southwest Suburban News-Herald, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 10/12/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

Opinion: [Government Spending Can Aid, Not Hinder, Businesses](#)

[Chicago] Southwest Suburban News-Herald, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 10/12/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Indiana

Opinion: [Investing in Progress](#)

[Indianapolis] Indiana Herald, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 10/13/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

Iowa

Opinion: [A farm lesson for leaders voting for Bush tax cuts](#)

Des Moines Register, Op-ed by Clear Lake farmer Chris Petersen/Member, Iowa Main Street Alliance, 10/23/12 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

When the Bush tax cuts were first passed, the federal budget had a surplus. Ten years later, we're in the hole, in large part because of these unaffordable tax cuts. If we want to reap a different crop from the next 10 years, it's time to sow some different seeds, not the same old budget-busters that got us into this pickle to begin with. The Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent were bad seed for Iowans and for America. It's time to rotate the crop.

Kentucky

Opinion: [How to Help Small Business](#)

Floyd County Times, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance business network. 11/23/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

[Congress Should end Bush tax cuts](#)

The [Prestonburg] Floyd County Times, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share....

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under \$250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

Louisiana

Letter: [Benefit programs aid small business](#)

The Advocate, Mary Black, business owner, 11/13/2012

Political sound bites aside, here's my vision for real help for small businesses: End the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent and reinvest the \$1 trillion in savings in our communities and local economies.

Letter: [Bush tax cuts good for everyone](#) (Main Street Alliance)

The Baton Rouge Advocate, Michael Hale, small business owner, 11/12/2012

I am writing in support of the recent letter from Mary Black regarding what the government can do to actually help small businesses. As a small-business owner, I can tell you that Black's letter is 100 percent accurate.

The Republican notion of how our economy works is false. Very few mainstream economists support it. As we have proven over and over again, the only reliable result of lowering taxes on rich folks is that rich folks get richer. The rest of us get poorer.

Opinion: [Can't afford tax cuts for rich](#)

Shreveport Times, Camille Moran, 11/7/2012

As the owner of two central Louisiana businesses, a freelance paralegal service and a Christmas tree farm, I am no stranger to the debate on taxes. I also know that investment is essential to my businesses' success. Much of that investment comes from me, but some of it comes when the government invests our tax dollars in ways that benefit my community and my business.

Those who think that allowing the Bush tax cuts to expire on income over \$250,000 will hurt small

businesses don't know much about the financial lot of the vast majority of small business owners. Less than 3 percent of taxpayers with any business income have income over \$250,000 and many of these are law partnerships, Wall Street investment managers and others not typically thought of as small businesses.

Letters: [Benefit Programs Aid Small Businesses](#) (Main Street Alliance)

The [Baton Rouge] Advocate, Op-ed by Mary Black , 11/7/2012 [Syndicated by American Forum]

I run a packing and shipping business in Baton Rouge. So when elected officials talk about helping small businesses, I'm all ears. Unfortunately, their claims about helping us often have too much packaging and not enough substance.

The fact is that 97 percent of small businesses won't be affected by ending the Bush tax cuts for income above \$250,000 a year. For us, this isn't an issue.

Maine

Opinion: [How to Help Small Business](#)

Franklin Journal, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance business network. 11/27/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

Opinion: [Why I should pay higher taxes](#)

The [Lewiston, Maine] Sun Journal, Jonathan Lee, 10/20/2012

I am one of those wealthy citizens and today I am calling for an end to tax cuts on annual incomes above \$250,000, even though it means I would pay more.

I am not alone among wealthier Mainers and Americans who want to see higher taxes on folks like ourselves be included in any deficit-reduction deal. We may appreciate low taxes as taxpayers, but as citizens, we cannot afford them.

Letter to the editor: [Ending tax cuts for rich would aid small business](#)

Portland Press Herald, letter by Stretch Tuemmler, owner of Stretch Studio in Portland and member of the Maine Small Business Coalition, 10/5/2012

A good starting place would be to allow tax cuts to expire for the 2 percent of American households that make more than a quarter-million dollars a year.

This move would raise hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 10 years for debt reduction, and, as the owner of a business, I can testify it will do no harm to small enterprise.

In fact, it will help us by improving the economic outlook of our middle-class customers.

Letter to the editor: [Humble farmer](#)

Bangor Daily News, letter by Robert Karl Skoglund, member of the Maine Small Business Coalition, 10/3/2012

Since both Democrats and Republicans (as well as the odd independent) agree that tax cuts due to expire at the end of this year shouldn't — for folks making less than a quarter of a million dollars annually — let's not let them expire.

Once we've extended tax cuts for the middle class, we can look up at the happy 2 percent of households that rake in over \$250,000 each and every year and allow the rates to move up ever so gently — not much, just back to the levels that helped bring on the prosperity and budget surpluses of the Clinton years.

Opinion: [End Bush tax cuts for richest 2 percent like me](#)

The [Farmington] Franklin Journal, Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/28/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share....

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under \$250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

Opinion: [Why small businesses should oppose lowering the tax rate for the wealthy](#)

Bangor Daily News, Op-ed by Jim Amaral, Founder of Borealis Breads in Wells and Lisa Burton, Co-Owner of Reel Pizza Cinerama in Bar Harbor, Maine Small Business Coalition, 9/26/12

Even though we both employ people in our businesses, we're not the real "job creators." That title belongs to our customers, the great mass of middle-class folks who buy our goods and services and make us profitable. So our main concern when it comes to government tax and spending policies is not how they will impact a tiny economic elite — or even our own finances — but how they will affect average families. That's why we oppose maintaining artificially low tax rates on the wealthy when those rates endanger the prosperity of the middle class.

Right after the fall elections, there will be a great debate over what to do about tax cuts set to expire at the end of the year. It's part of a larger question of how to get our federal budget back in shape and our economy back up to speed. Some politicians want to extend these cuts for all income levels — including millionaires and billionaires — but the wiser course would be to target this tax relief to the people who truly need and will spend the money: the middle class.

Letter: [Lame ducks](#)

Bangor Daily News, Dick Altee, 9/21/2012

Real small businesses, drivers of the economy, confirm in surveys that lack of demand for their output, not high taxes, is their problem.

Our two representatives, understanding this, support tax cuts for the nonwealthy, not the wealthy. One would hope our two senators will, too, in the coming lame duck session.

Letter to the editor: [Keep tax relief](#)

Bangor Daily News, letter by Mike Shunney, member of the Maine Small Business Coalition, 9/21/2012

So when you hear a proposal to increase taxes on businesses with income more than \$250,000, we're talking about a quarter of a million in profit. So don't think it will affect the corner convenience store, local bookkeeper or almost any other small-business owner you know. Only 3 percent of unincorporated businesses in the country make that much profit.

For the other 97 percent of us, the effect of slightly higher taxes on the most profitable businesses is all positive, since the increased public revenue can be used to pay down debt and bolster programs that support our customers, the middle class.

Letter to the editor: [Recession, not high taxes, small firms' big roadblock](#)

Portland Press Herald, letter by Pamela Edwards, member of the Maine Small Business Coalition (Main Street Alliance affiliate), 8/20/2012

Opponents of equitable taxation often claim that raising rates slightly on wealthier Americans to pay down national debt and restore valuable public investments would somehow hurt small business and prevent job creation.

Well, as an owner of one of those job-creating small businesses, I have an important message for my "defenders": The idea that taxes are preventing us from hiring is nonsense. Nothing in the tax code is keeping us from taking on employees; what's holding us back is a lack of consumer demand.

[Collins, Snowe embody virtue of fairness in regards to taxes](#)

[Augusta] Kennebec Journal, Oped by Laurent F. Gilbert Sr., former Mayor of Lewiston, 8/13/2012

...We know we have to get our financial house in order, but we also know we can't do it through spending cuts alone. Large corporations and wealthy individuals must pay their fair share as part of the solution...

A good place to start is by allowing the tax rates on the top 2 percent of households -- those families making more than \$250,000 per year -- to rise slightly, back to the level of the Clinton administration in the 1990s, a time of unprecedented prosperity.

[Collins, Snowe embody virtue of fairness in regards to taxes](#)

[Skowhegan] Morning Sentinel, Oped by Laurent F. Gilbert Sr., former Mayor of Lewiston, 8/13/2012

Maryland

Opinion: [Myths and millionaires, the Bush tax cuts](#)

[Cambridge] Dorchester Banner, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/2/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called “job creators” will have an adverse effect on the economy....

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

Massachusetts

[Myths and millionaires](#)

Boston Globe, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 10/24/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called “job creators” will have an adverse effect on the economy....

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

Investing in progress to catch international competitors

Gardner News, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/16/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

[Progress Fueled by Investment, Not Taxes](#)

[New Bedford] Standard-Times, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/10/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Congress should end Bush tax cuts for richest 2% like me](#)

The Gardner News, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

Michigan

[Myths and millionaires](#)

Monroe Evening News Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 10/31/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

As every good businessman knows — including Governor Romney with whom I had been associated as a limited partner at Bain Capital Ventures —the soundness of a company and its ability to create jobs does not rest on lower taxes for the company or its senior management.

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

Minnesota

[Stop the spin on small business](#)

Hector News Mirror, Op-ed by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, American Sustainable Business Council,10/31/12 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Fortunately for whatever reason, the misleading statements about small business and the Bush tax cuts stopped last night. However, the inaccurate information has been put in the public record and needs to be corrected. While a few of us small-business owners might be considered wealthy, the vast majority of us will not be negatively impacted by allowing the tax cuts on the top two income tax brackets to expire. And all of us will continue making hiring decisions based on consumer demand, not our personal income

tax rates.

Stop the spin on small business

Bird Island Union, Op-ed by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, American Sustainable Business Council,10/31/12 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Of millionaires and myths

Westbrook Sentinel Tribune Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/7/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called "job creators" will have an adverse effect on the economy....

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

Taxes for schools and infrastructure and downpayments on future success

Osseo Tri-County News Op-ed by Joel Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity , 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Investing in progress

[Granite Falls and Clarkfield] Advocate Tribune, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/21/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

Public investment through taxes makes private sector success possible

Byron Review, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/16/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Investing in progress](#)

The Annandale Advocate, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/17/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[When did investing in progress become something to criticize?](#)

Crookston Daily Times, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/11/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Public investment through taxes makes private sector possible](#)

Dodge Center Star Record, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/17/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Investing in Progress](#)

[Elbow Lake] Grant County Herald Op-ed by Joel Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 10/17/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Investing in progress](#)

Bird Island Union, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/17/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Investing in progress](#)

Springfield Advance-Press, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/17/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Investing in progress](#)

[Hector] News Mirror, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/17/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Set aside the half-baked claims, end Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent](#)

Stillwater Gazette, Op-ed by Lynn Schurman, owner of Cold Spring Bakery in Cold Spring, MN, 9/12/2012

It's time to put to rest the half-baked claims about small businesses being impacted by ending the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent. The House and Senate both voted on this before leaving for their August recess. For every member of Congress who voted to protect extra cuts for the richest 2 percent, now is the time for small business owners in their districts to ask them to explain why they're advancing the interests of Washington lobbyists, Wall Street hedge fund managers, and multi-national corporations – at the expense of real small businesses and our local economies. They've got some explaining to do.

[Congress Should End Bush tax cuts for Top 2% like me](#)

[Moose Lake] Arrowhead Leader, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/6/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Congress should end Bush tax cuts for richest, like me](#)

Crookston Daily Times, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/4/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent Like Me](#)

The [Westbrook] Sentinel Tribune, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Best for Small Business](#)

Annandale Advocate, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 8/1/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Stand up for the good name of small business: End the Bush tax cuts for the top 2%](#)

Crookston Daily Times, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 8/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

Missouri

[Co-Owner of Vintage Vinyl Gives President Obama Economic Advice](#)

Fox2Now St. Louis, Rebecca Roberts, November 27, 2012

In a day that he will never forget, Vintage Vinyl Co-Owner Lew Prince was in Washington. D.C. Tuesday to talk economics with President Obama at the White House. Lew Prince was one of 12 small business owners that met with the President to talk about tax policy on small business owners.

The meeting included the President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and the Office of Management and Budget.

Prince and 11 other small business owners gave the President advice and recommendations on how to help small business owners in America.

[Vintage Vinyl Owner Among Small Business Leaders at White House Meeting](#)

St. Louis Public Radio, Maria Altman, November 27, 2012

Lew Prince is a member of Business for Shared Prosperity, an organization that is pushing Congress to end the Bush-era tax cuts for the top two percent. Prince says the meeting at the White House this afternoon was unusual because no one was asking for anything for themselves.

“These were small businesses that were in the room because they thought tax cuts for the wealthy do not stimulate the economy and that long-term tax reform and tax planning was the way to solve the debt crisis.”

Prince says the group wants to see Bush-era tax cuts for middle-income earners continued. He says that \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year makes a difference to families and gets spent in communities.

[Vintage Vinyl Owner Talks Taxes with President Obama](#)

KMOX, Brian Kelly, November 27, 2012

The owner of one of St. Louis' best known small businesses was at the White House Tuesday, talking with President Obama about the fiscal cliff.

Prince tells KMOX continuing the middle class tax cuts, would spur growth for everyone, "It puts money into the hands of the people who walk in to the butcher, the baker the grocery store around town. What's good for Schnucks and Dierbergs is good for every [small business](#) in America and putting money in people's hands is the best stimulus to the economy and stimulus to growth that there is."

Prince is a member of Business for Shared Prosperity, whose members joined members of the American Sustainable Business Council in calling on Congress to end the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent and reinvest in infrastructure and [education](#).

[Vinyl Vintage owner meets with the President](#)

KMOV, Justine Ward, November 27, 2012

Prince is among more than 600 business owners and executives who signed a letter sent by the BSP and American Sustainable Business Council calling on Congress to end costly Bush tax cuts to the top 2 percent and reinvest in the country.

"We're not here asking for anything for ourselves. We're here because we want the best for our country. I've run a small business for more than 30 years. Expecting high-income tax cuts to trickle down as job creation is like pouring gas on your hood and expecting it to fuel your engine. It's time to stop giving tax breaks to wealthy households and big corporations, and reinvest in America," Prince explained. Vintage Vinyl is the largest independent music store in the Midwest and one of the largest in the country.

[Vintage Vinyl owner meets with the President](#)

St Louis Today, Kevin C. Johnson, November 27, 2012

Prince is one of more than 600 business owners and executives who signed a letter sent by Business for Shared Prosperity (BSP) and the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) calling on Congress to end costly Bush tax cuts for the top two percent and reinvest in America. BSP and ASBC had additional representatives from other states at the White House meeting. "We're not here asking for anything for ourselves," Prince said. "We're here because we want the best for our country. I've run a small business for more than 30 years. Expecting high-income tax cuts to trickle down as job creation is like pouring gas on your hood and expecting it to fuel your engine. It's time to stop giving tax breaks to wealthy households and big corporations, and reinvest in America."

[Vintage Vinyl's Lew Prince talks taxes with President Obama](#)

St. Louis Business Journal, November 27, 2012

Tuesday, Vintage Vinyl Managing Partner [Lew Prince](#) spent his day, not in the Delmar Loop, but on Pennsylvania Avenue. Prince met with President [Barack Obama](#) Tuesday afternoon to share his views regarding tax policies.

"I've run a small business for more than 30 years." Prince said in a statement. "Expecting high-income tax cuts to trickle down as job creation is like pouring gas on your hood and expecting it to fuel your engine."

[Vintage Vinyl owner Lew Prince to meet with President Obama](#)

KSDK, Kristen Gosling, November 27, 2012

Lew Prince, a managing partner of Vintage Vinyl, is one of more than 600 [business owners](#) and executives who signed a letter created by the Business for Shared Prosperity and the American Sustainable Business Council calling on Congress to end President Bush's tax cuts for the top two-percent.

"We're not here asking for anything for ourselves," Prince said. "We're here because we want the best for our country. I've run a small business for more than 30 years. Expecting high-income tax cuts to trickle down as job creation is like pouring gas on your hood and expecting it to [fuel](#) your engine. It's time to stop giving tax breaks to wealthy households and big corporations, and reinvest in America."

Montana

[How to Help Small Business](#)

[Butte] *Montana Standard*, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance business network. 12/4/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

[Small business owners want wealthy to pay their share](#)

Montana Standard, John Grant Emeigh, 11/11/2012

Anna Doran, proprietor of The Big Dipper in Helena, echoed the sentiment that small businesses aren't the same as large businesses and have different needs. She said that small businesses need a fiscally secure middle class in order to maintain a "healthy customer base."

Gy Moody of Cleaner Image Janitorial in Billings believes the nation's wealthiest, which he called the "2 percent," don't need further tax cuts.

“It’s their turn (to pay more taxes),” Moody said. “Trickle down (economics) looks great on paper, but it doesn’t work.”

Campaign distorted tax impact on small business

Billings Gazette, Gary Mermel, small business owner, 11/10/2012

I own a restaurant franchise here in Billings, so that makes me one of those small business owners Mitt Romney was referring to during the heat of the presidential campaign when he suggested that ending the Bush tax cuts for household income above \$250,000 a year will hurt small business job creators. But truth is, I won’t be affected because my business doesn’t earn enough to get me close to that quarter-million-dollar threshold. Nor do the earnings of 98 percent of all small businesses.

It’s time to do what’s right for small businesses and the country: end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent. As a small business owner, I’m all for it.

Hyping the cliff: Pending changes in tax laws aren't the end of the world; Republicans and Democrats agree on what to do for 98 percent of Americans

The Missoulian, Op-ed by Aimee McQuilkin, owner of Betty’s Divine in Missoula and a leader with the Montana Small Business Alliance (Main Street Alliance affiliate), 9/4/2012

Pundits and politicians are telling us to be scared out of our wits by this fiscal cliff. But as a small-business owner, I just don’t buy the hype. Maybe it’s because I’m in the clothing business, but when I hear all the media hysteria and political posturing about the fiscal cliff, I can’t help thinking: somebody’s pants are on fire.

For one thing, the so-called “cliff” isn’t really a cliff at all. It’s more like a gently sloping hill. Why don’t they call it that then? I guess because “gently sloping fiscal hill” doesn’t sell papers and help with TV ratings.

New Jersey

Small businesses need customers, not more tax cuts for the rich

NJ.com, Op-ed by Samia Bahoun, owner of S2 Associates International, a high-tech communications firm in Holmdel, and a member of the New Jersey Main Street Alliance, 11/28/2012

Congress needs to put meaningful revenue options on the table so we can strengthen these programs, not cut them. We can start by ending the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent of income earners — that’s households earning more than \$250,000 a year in taxable income. This would recoup almost a trillion dollars in revenue over 10 years.

This is the best path forward for small businesses: While the richest 2 percent will hardly notice the small increase in their taxes, severe cuts to programs such as Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare would have a damaging effect on our local economies and the customer base that supports healthy small businesses.

Stop the spin on small business

[Rahway] NJ Today, Op-ed by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, American Sustainable Business Council, 10/28/12 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Fortunately for whatever reason, the misleading statements about small business and the Bush tax cuts stopped last night. However, the inaccurate information has been put in the public record and needs to be corrected. While a few of us small-business owners might be considered wealthy, the vast majority of us will not be negatively impacted by allowing the tax cuts on the top two income tax brackets to expire. And all of us will continue making hiring decisions based on consumer demand, not our personal income tax rates.

Myths and millionaires, the Bush tax cuts

[Rahway] NJ Today Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 10/31/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called "job creators" will have an adverse effect on the economy....

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

Investing in Progress

[Rahway] NJ Today, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity 10/10/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

Opinion: How to Help Small Business

New Jersey Today, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance
business network. 11/23/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

[Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts For Richest 2 Percent Like Me](#)

[*Rahway*] *NJ Today*, Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/2/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

New Mexico

[Taxes are down payments on future success](#)

Santa Fe New Mexican, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity 10/16/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

[Congress should end Bush Tax Cuts](#)

Deming Headlight, Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/2/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[End tax cuts for richest 2%, those like me](#)

Santa Fe New Mexican [Sunday edition], Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/2/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

New York

[Small businesses favor middle-class tax breaks](#)

Times Herald-Record, James Walsh, 10/26/2012

Most small-business owners favor continuing tax breaks for the middle class and raising taxes on the richest Americans, according to a national survey by a business advocacy group.

[Investing in progress](#)

[*Brooklyn*] *Caribbean Life*, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 10/18/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

[Investing in progress](#)

[Queens/Long Island] Caribbean Life, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 10/18/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Myths and millionaires](#)

Queens/Long Island] Caribbean Life Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/15/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called "job creators" will have an adverse effect on the economy....

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

[End Bush-era tax cuts for top 2 percent](#)

[Brooklyn] Caribbean Life, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/25/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first \$250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I'm all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

[End Bush-era tax cuts for top 2 percent](#)

[Queens/Long Island] Caribbean Life, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/25/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

North Carolina

Myths and millionaires

Durham Herald-Sun, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/05/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

As every good businessman knows — including Governor Romney with whom I had been associated as a limited partner at Bain Capital Ventures —the soundness of a company and its ability to create jobs does not rest on lower taxes for the company or its senior management.

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

The truth about taxes and small businesses: Latest Survey Results

The Progressive Pulse, Allan Freyer, 10/25/2012

As Congress continues to debate how to address the expiration of the Bush tax cuts, expect to hear lots of overheated claims about the impact of tax increases on small businesses. Fortunately, a [new survey released today](#) from the Small Business Majority helps dispel much of the fog that constantly surrounds this important discussion—emphasizing the point that the overwhelming majority of small businesses think that eliminating Bush-era tax breaks on investments and income greater than \$250,000 per year will have no negative consequences for their business and will help provide a balanced approach to reducing the federal budget deficit.

Creating jobs with greater efficiency

The News and Observer, Jason Massey, small business owner, 10/25/2012 [op-ed syndicated by American Forum.]

As a businessman, I believe deeply in the power of free markets. Yet I also know that government investment plays a vital role in seeding those markets for success.

Our economy can't prosper without a strong and vibrant business sector, but our businesses need smart, efficient tax policies to help them thrive. Our businesses need tax policies that have a direct effect on economic growth rather than derivative, trickle-down approaches.

We must invest in progress

Durham Herald-Sun, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/16/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

[Investing in Progress](#)

The Laurinburg Exchange, Op-ed by Joel Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 10/10/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Cut Tax Cuts](#)

The Laurinburg Exchange, Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share....

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under \$250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

[Cut Tax Cuts](#)

The Laurinburg Exchange, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/1/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Congress should end Bush tax cuts for folks like me](#)

Spring Hope Enterprise, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/6/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Take it from this business owner: Tax cuts for rich don't help](#)

Charlotte Observer, Oped by Eric Henry, President of TS Designs of Burlington/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 8/21/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

If anyone tells you that ending the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent would hurt job creation, tell them to talk with me. We founded our business, TS Designs, in 1977 as a small manual screen printing company and grew to land contracts with some of clothing's biggest brands. In 1993, we lost much of our business as a result of the supposedly job-creating NAFTA trade agreement as large brands sought out the cheapest labor costs they could in Mexico.

We decided to stick it out and keep good jobs right here in North Carolina. We invested in new technologies that reduced our energy and waste costs. We found new markets for our t-shirts. And we looked at our location in North Carolina as a virtue, not a problem. We decided to manufacture t-shirts

from cotton grown, ginned, spun, knit, finished, cut, sewn, printed and dyed all within our state's borders; or as we like to say, from dirt to shirt in North Carolina...

[We don't cotton to tax cuts for the rich](#)

[Raleigh] News & Observer, Oped by Eric Henry, President of TS Designs of Burlington/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Tax cuts don't hurt businesses](#)

[Morehead City] Carolina Coast, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 8/8/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Tax cuts for top two percent don't help small businesses](#)

Spring Hope Enterprise, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 8/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

Ohio

[Rich Can Pay More](#)

The [Youngstown] Vindicator, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share....

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under \$250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

[Congress should end Bush tax cuts for richest two percent like me](#)

[Cleveland] Call and Post, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

Oregon

[Survey: Small-biz execs talk taxes, regs and Citizens United](#)

Portland Business Journal, Suzanne Stevens, 9/27/2012

The survey, "Taking the Pulse of Oregon Small Business," was conducted by the small business advocacy group Main Street Alliance of Oregon. The group will present its findings to U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Friday morning at 9 a.m. at Salt and Straw Ice Cream and Bakery in Portland.

Among the highlights of small business opinions:

More customers, and not lower taxes or fewer regulations, are what small businesses need to rebuild the economy and create jobs.

Big corporations are not paying their fair share of taxes.

Corporate tax loopholes should be closed to increase revenues before making further budget cuts.

Oregon small business owners call on Congress to end Bush-era tax breaks for top 2 percent

Salem Statesman-Journal, Op-ed by Main Street Alliance of Oregon leaders Jose Gonzalez, Mark Kellenbeck, Victor Madge, Deborah and John Field, and Brian Setzler, 9/1/2012

The debate over the Bush tax cuts has been clouded by claims that ending special breaks for the top 2 percent of income earners would impact many small businesses. As small business owners, we know these claims don't square with the facts.

In reality, only a tiny fraction – roughly 3 percent – of all American taxpayers who report any form of business income on their personal tax returns would be impacted by a change in tax rates for income over \$250,000.

Even this small fraction includes hedge fund managers, high-powered corporate lawyers, and K Street lobbyists, so the number of real small businesses affected is even fewer.

Pennsylvania

Opinion: [Take It From A Business Owner: Tax Cuts Are Not Job Creators](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Cynthia Gale, Creative Director of Barber Gale Group, 12/02/2012

My husband and I have owned a branding and graphic design business since 1993. Some politicians call us "job creators." They say that unless we extend the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent of Americans, small businesses like ours will be hurt. Don't believe it.

Job creation doesn't work this way, in a vacuum. Business owners like me create more jobs when we need more employees to meet the demand for goods and services our businesses provide. And we deduct employee costs from our taxable income. So demand is the key to job creation -- not tax cuts.

[Taxes benefit businesses rather than harm them](#)

[Stroudsburg]Pocono Record, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity,10/11/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next

generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

[I'm a small businessman and I'm glad to pay taxes](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 9/16/2012

Rhode Island

[Smite the myth that tax cuts create jobs](#)

Providence Journal, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/21/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called “job creators” will have an adverse effect on the economy....

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

[Small-Business Owners Get Abused in Tax Cut Debate](#)

The [Westerly] Sun, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/31/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first \$250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I’m all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

Tennessee

Investing in Progress

Nashville Pride, Op-ed by Joel Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity , 11/2/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

[Most small-business owners favor higher taxes on wealthy, poll shows](#)

Nashville Business Journal, 10/26/12

More than half of small business owners think raising taxes on high-income Americans is necessary given the federal government's debt crisis, The Business Journals' Washington Bureau reports. That's according to a [poll conducted for Small Business Majority](#), a Democratic-leaning organization, by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, a Democratic polling firm. But before you dismiss these findings as partisan, note this: 47 percent of the 500 small business owners interviewed identified themselves as Republicans vs. 35 percent who identified themselves as Democrats.

[Myths and millionaires](#)

Nashville Pride, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/09/2012
[Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

As every good businessman knows — including Governor Romney with whom I had been associated as a limited partner at Bain Capital Ventures — the soundness of a company and its ability to create jobs does not rest on lower taxes for the company or its senior management.

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

Texas

Opinion: [How to Help Small Business](#)

San Antonio Daily Commercial Recorder, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance business network. 11/28/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

Opinion: [How to Help Small Business](#)

San Marcos Daily Record, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance business network. 11/21/2012

[Stop the spin on small business](#)

Waxahachie Daily Light, Op-ed by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, American Sustainable Business Council, 10/28/12 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Fortunately for whatever reason, the misleading statements about small business and the Bush tax cuts stopped last night. However, the inaccurate information has been put in the public record and needs to be corrected. While a few of us small-business owners might be considered wealthy, the vast majority of us will not be negatively impacted by allowing the tax cuts on the top two income tax brackets to expire. And all of us will continue making hiring decisions based on consumer demand, not our personal income tax rates.

[Taxes used to invest in essential progress](#)

San Marcos Daily Record, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity, 10/10/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of free enterprise. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

[Column: Stand up for good name of small business](#)

The Waxahachie Daily Light, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/27/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first \$250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop

with a dozen employees — I'm all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

[Stand up for the good name of small business - end the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent](#)

The Gilmer Mirror, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/27/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

Utah

Interview: [Small Business Majority's Rhett Buttle on small business issues embedded in fiscal cliff](#)
NPR-KPCW Utah, 11/12/2012

[Small Business Owners Favor Higher Taxes on Wealthy](#)
Utah Policy, Bryan Schott, 10/28/2012

A new poll shows most small business owners support higher taxes on upper income Americans.

The poll from Small Business Majority finds that 52% of small business owners think, in a financial crisis, it's the right thing to raise taxes on the wealthiest 2%.

Virginia

Opinion: [How to Help Small Business](#)

Petersburg Progress- Index, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance
business network. 11/27/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

Opinion: [How to Help Small Business](#)

Augusta Free Press, Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the Montana Small Business Alliance and the national Main Street Alliance
business network. 11/21/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in

the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

[Of millionaires and myths](#)

[Bowling Green] Caroline Progress Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 11/8/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[Myths and millionaires](#)

Augusta Free Press [Waynesboro] Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices for Progress, 10/30/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[End Bush tax cuts for richest 2 percent like me](#)

[Bowling Green] Caroline Progress, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/6/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Congress should end Bush tax cuts for richest 2 percent like me](#)

[Waynesboro] Augusta Free Press, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 9/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent Don't Help Small Business](#)

The Roanoke Times, Thomas Critchfield, engineer and the owner/operator of Critchfield Structural Solutions, LLC, 8/26/2012 [op-ed syndicated by American Forum.]

I'm a small business owner/operator and an engineer by trade, so I make my business and economic decisions based largely on facts and numbers. Thirty-one years ago, I graduated from the Virginia Tech College of Engineering, and embraced the Republican Party because I shared its values of personal responsibility, hard work, and economic progress. The Republican policies of that time included some measures that would benefit the very rich, including a dramatic reduction in the marginal tax rates on the highest income earners, which had varied from 70 percent to above 90 percent in the prior decades.

[Stand up for the good name of small business - end the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent](#)

Petersburg Progress-Index , Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 8/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[End Bush tax cuts for richest 2 percent like me](#)

Richmond Times Dispatch, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, Voices for Progress, 8/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Jim Houser: End the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent](#)

[Waynesboro] Augusta Free Press, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/28/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[Stand up for the good name of small business – end the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent](#)

Emporia News, Op-ed by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/29/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Washington

[Op-ed: Cupcake economics to avoid a 'Sno Ball' cliff](#)

Seattle Times, Op-ed by Jody Hall, owner of Cupcake Royale and a leader with the Main Street Alliance of Washington, 11/29/2012

Once again, the rich get the icing. The middle class gets iced.

Here's a sweet idea: Instead of listening to Wall Street, Congress should take its advice from Main Street during this year-end fiscal showdown.

Congress can support small businesses, and our middle-class customer base, by taking three steps: End the Bush tax giveaways for the richest 2 percent, continuing middle-class tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small-business owners; Reject cuts to middle-class programs — Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare — that support a healthy customer base for small businesses; and Crack down on corporate tax dodging and make the big guys pay their fair share of taxes.

[Fiscal cliff would kneecap out military](#)

Seattle Times, Mark Blondin, general vice president of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, 11/12/2012

Sequestration means a trillion dollars in automatic cuts to defense and other budgets that kick in on Jan. 2. Economists have said these cuts, plus the expiration of the Bush tax cuts, will kill off fiscal recovery and toss us over a fiscal cliff back into another recession. That's especially bad news for Washington state, where sequestration would throttle defense and commercial aerospace work that has been critical to economic strength.

[Senator Patty Murray pushes for tax cut extension](#)

KNDO, 8/22/2012

Senator Patty Murray stopped in the Tri-Cities Wednesday morning to drum up support for legislation just passed by the senate that would extend some of the bush tax cuts.

Senator Murray visited the Adventures Underground book and music store at Richland's Uptown center. She spoke with the store's owners and other business and labor leaders about how they would benefit from the senate bill.

[Sen. Murray champions middle class and 'true' small business owners at Husky Deli](#)

West Seattle Herald, Ty Swenson, 8/24/2012

We are here today because if Congress does not act, taxes are scheduled to go up for every single American at the end of this year. I think that is truly the wrong way to go for our families and the wrong way to go for the economy here in Seattle, and I've been working very hard to stop that from happening."

Murray said she was instrumental in passing a Senate bill last month to extend tax cuts "for 98 percent of our workers and 97 percent of our small business owners in this country."

She said support for extending middle class tax cuts "is not a debate," across party lines and through the House and Senate.

[Patty Murray, Doc Hastings visit Tri-Cities to sell party's message](#)

Tri-City Herald, Michelle Dupler and Loretto Hulse, 8/23/2012

Divine said that as a small-business owner, she supports a plan approved by Democrats in the U.S. Senate that would extend tax cuts for people earning less than \$250,000 per year while allowing tax cuts for those earning more to expire.

"I don't take home \$250,000 per year with a joint paycheck," Divine said, adding that if she did, she'd be glad to pay the taxes that support roads, schools and other things that benefit the community.

[Sen. Murray fights for tax cuts for middle class families](#)

KVEW TV, Josh Peterson, 8/22/2012

Senator Patty Murray comes to Richland today to fight for tax cuts for middle class families and small business owners.

Murray says taxes are scheduled to go up for every American at the end of the year.

But she's hoping to stop that.

Last month, the Senate voted to extend tax cuts for 98% of workers and 97% of small business owners across the country.

West Virginia

[Stop the small business spin, lies](#)

Superior Daily Telegram, Op-ed by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, American Sustainable Business Council,10/31/12 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

Fortunately for whatever reason, the misleading statements about small business and the Bush tax cuts stopped last night. However, the inaccurate information has been put in the public record and needs to be corrected. While a few of us small-business owners might be considered wealthy, the vast majority of us will not be negatively impacted by allowing the tax cuts on the top two income tax brackets to expire. And all of us will continue making hiring decisions based on consumer demand, not our personal income

tax rates.

Wisconsin

[Jim Houser: Stand up for small biz — end extra tax cuts for top 2%](#)

The [Madison] Capital Times, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 7/31/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first \$250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I'm all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

[Tax cuts for rich do not create jobs](#)

Wisconsin Dells Events, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of Main Street Alliance, 8/4/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]