



**Independent Electrical  
Contractors**

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June 19, 2013

The Honorable John Thune  
United States Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

On behalf of the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC), a national trade association for merit-shop electrical and systems contractors composed of 56 chapters and more than 3,000 members, I write to thank you for introducing S. 1183, the *Death Tax Repeal Act of 2013*.

Many of IEC's member companies are small businesses, a majority of which are family owned and operated. These businesses are unfairly punished by the estate tax – also known as the “Death Tax” – which is levied on the transfer of a business within a family once the primary owner has passed away. This often forces families to sell off some or all of the business in order to pay the government.

As the construction industry attempts to recover from the 2008 recession, tax relief is essential for small employers looking to grow and hire new staff which will help reinvigorate a still struggling sector. The burdensome estate tax, which only accounts for less than one percent of annual federal revenue, stymies this growth and acts as a painful hurdle in passing down family owned businesses to future generations.

IEC thanks you for your steadfast support of small businesses, and we look forward to working with you to enact full and permanent repeal of the estate tax.

Sincerely,

Alexis Moch  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Independent Electrical Contractors