



August 29, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

On behalf of the Security Industry Association (SIA), I would like to express our strong support for S. 1144, the Investment in New Ventures and Economic Success Today (INVEST) Act.

SIA is a non-profit, international trade association representing over 700 security and life safety solutions providers that employ thousands of Americans. Among other products, our member companies develop, manufacture and integrate building systems that help keep people and property safe from fire, theft and other hazards.

SIA supports comprehensive tax reform that helps businesses and encourages economic growth. In order to help our economy reach its growth potential, we believe Congress must make business expensing reform its first priority in any tax package that it considers. Expanded expensing is the most effective way of lowering the cost of capital investment in buildings, equipment and technology.

S. 1144 would overhaul business expensing policy by expanding the scope of Section 179 expensing, increasing the dollar limit to \$2 million, making "bonus" depreciation permanent, reducing the depreciation schedule for certain products, expanding expensing for start-up costs available to new businesses and simplifying accounting rules.

More than 80% of our member companies are small and medium sized businesses that would benefit directly from these provisions. Also, it would help spur additional growth and create new jobs in our industry by making building improvements less costly to our customers in the commercial sector. S. 1144 would expand expensing to allow businesses to fully expense certain building improvements related specifically to roofs, HVAC, fire protection and alarm systems, and security systems.

Our industry has seen rapid improvements in technology that are making modern security and life safety solutions more effective than ever. Under current law the cost of implementing these solutions must be capitalized and depreciated over the 39-year depreciation life of the building structure. Expanded expensing will help s businesses take full advantage of this innovation for the enhanced safety of their patrons and employees, by making it more affordable to modernize and maintain these essential building systems.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. SIA and our members stand ready to work with you and your colleagues in Congress towards enactment of tax policies addressing the critical need for business expensing reform. Please let us know if there is any other information or assistance we can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Erickson".

CEO
Security Industry Association