

September 22, 2017

CEOs Elevate Case for Tax Reform, Explain How Reform Will Encourage Investment, Growth

With a CEO forum, television interviews, and a variety of other activities, Business Roundtable made a concerted push this week for tax reform:

- In a panel discussion Wednesday morning, five Business Roundtable CEOs detailed the positive impact that tax reform would have on their companies and employees, capital investment, and the U.S. economy. Moderated by Norah O'Donnell, co-host of *CBS This Morning*, the forum featured David Abney, UPS; Marillyn Hewson, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Dennis Muilenburg, The Boeing Company; Randall Stephenson, AT&T Inc.; and Mark Weinberger of EY, Chair of BRT's Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee. The event drew extensive media coverage, and BRT has posted video of the panel discussion [here](#).
- Tax reform was also the focus of an O'Donnell interview on CBS with Business Roundtable Chairman Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co., and Ginni Rometty, Chairman, President and CEO of IBM. CBS has posted [video and transcript of the interview](#), which also addressed immigration.
- BRT highlighted the response to a question posed in the [Q3 CEO Economic Outlook Survey](#): 87 percent of CEOs identified the U.S. tax system as the most important disadvantage for the U.S. economy relative to other major economies.
- BRT released a study conducted by EY, [Buying and Selling: Cross-border mergers and acquisitions and the U.S. corporate income tax](#). The study concluded that with a competitive 20 percent corporate income tax rate, the United States would have retained 4,700 companies from 2004 to 2016. It also found that a competitive rate would have encouraged additional foreign direct investment. Weinberger and BRT President & CEO Joshua Bolten discussed the findings on CNBC. (See [video clip](#).)
- BRT submitted [a statement for the record](#) to the Senate Finance Committee [for its September 19 hearing](#) on business tax reform.

BRT Amicus Brief over Federal Jurisdiction of Securities Class-Action Suits

Business Roundtable and the Society for Corporate Governance [filed an amicus brief](#) with the U.S. Supreme Court on Sept. 5, 2017, in *Cyan, Inc. v. Beaver County Employees Retirement Funds*, supporting continued federal jurisdiction in securities class-action litigation. At issue is whether state courts have jurisdiction over securities class actions arising exclusively under the *Securities Act of 1933*. The brief argues that Congress passed the 1998 *Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act* to make the federal court the exclusive forum for securities class-action cases. Allowing state courts to exercise jurisdiction over 1933 Act class actions would deprive litigants of the substantive and procedural safeguards specifically designed to curtail the abuse of class actions. In addition, BRT argued, uncertainty over the proper forum for securities class-action litigation discourages capital formation and increases the risk of litigation.

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