

September 29, 2017

Business Roundtable: ‘Big Six’ Framework Represents Positive Momentum for Tax Reform

Business Roundtable this week called the release of the “Big Six” [Unified Framework for Fixing our Broken Tax System](#) an “encouraging step” toward creating a tax system that delivers a stronger economy, job creation and wage growth. In a [BRT statement](#), Chairman Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co said: “Congress and the Administration are committed to tax reform, and business leaders are equally committed to pushing beyond our parochial interests to achieve a result that benefits the economy and American workers.” EY Global Chairman and CEO Mark Weinberger, Chair of BRT’s Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee, highlighted the framework’s competitive corporate tax rate and shift toward a territorial system of international taxation: “Congress needs to preserve these elements and fill in the details quickly so the proposals can become law by year’s end. This will provide greater certainty and allow businesses to increase investment in workers and capital equipment and grow the economy.” BRT President & CEO Joshua Bolten called on Congress to quickly adopt a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions to make tax reform possible. On Thursday, a [letter from 240 trade associations](#), including BRT, also asked Congress to act on the budget.

President Makes STEM, Computer Science a Funding Priority; Companies Pledge Contributions

BRT this week expressed support for the [President’s](#) directive that the Department of Education make STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and computer science a priority in federal grants. [In a statement](#), Northrop Grumman Chairman, CEO and President Wes Bush, Chair of BRT’s Education and Workforce Committee, called technology a foundation for ensuring a child’s education, lauding the Administration’s additional emphasis on rural and minority populations. Joining Ivanka Trump at an event in Detroit, Lockheed Martin Chairman, President and CEO Marillyn Hewson stressed the importance of partnerships among government, business, academia and charitable groups to foster a 21st century workforce. (See [video clip](#).) Companies led by BRT CEOs this week announced financial support for the initiative: Salesforce, \$50 million; Lockheed Martin, \$25 million; General Motors Co. and Accenture, \$10 million.

BRT Submits Comments on Overtime Rule, Waters of the United States

BRT this week submitted formal comments on two regulations from the Obama Administration under reconsideration. Federal courts have halted implementation of both original rules.

- [To the Department of Labor](#), restating BRT’s earlier critique the 2015 “overtime rule” for its excessively high salary thresholds and automatic increases.
- [To the EPA](#), reaffirming BRT’s support for returning to the pre-2015 definition of “Waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Rule.

The Top Line: The U.S. economy grew 3.1 percent in the second quarter of 2017, the [Bureau of Economic Analysis announced](#) in its final revision for the period. Following a weak Q1, a rebound in consumer spending and solid business investment drove growth, while inventories and net exports also expanded. Growth in these sectors outweighed a sharp decline in residential investment. For more detail, see *The Top Line* analysis below and online [here](#).