

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tax Package Announcements an Improvement, but a Full Overhaul Urgently Needed: Canadian and Windsor-Essex Regional Chambers

WINDSOR, ON – Last week’s announcements scaling back the small business tax package announced in July are a step in the right direction, but much more is needed if Canadian businesses are to compete, says the Windsor-Essex Regional (WERCC) and Canadian Chambers of Commerce.

In response, the WERCC sent a letter to the Hon. Percy Mockler, Chair, Senate Standing Committee on National Finance and the Hon. Anne C. Cools, Deputy, Chair, Senate Standing Committee on National Finance, urging them to continue to hear from business on the government’s proposed tax reforms at the upcoming hearings.

“We want to ensure that we convince Senators Mockler and Cools to go ahead with the hearings. These hearings are importance in order for our members, and the Chamber network, to express their thoughts on the reform. There is still much confusion and uncertainty around the changes and Senators need to hear this,” said WERCC President & CEO Matt Marchand.

“The changes announced this week are a relief to the business community. They were alarmed that the July proposals threatened the survival of thousands of businesses. However, for our businesses to succeed, we urgently need to reform our complex, cumbersome and uncompetitive tax system,” said the Hon. Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber.

Since the government unveiled its proposed tax measures in July, the Canadian Chamber has advocated a full and independent review of the tax system to make it less of a drag on Canada’s competitiveness. At the Chamber’s annual general meeting, delegates supported appointing a Royal Commission to conduct the review.

“We must stop simply tinkering with the tax system and undertake a comprehensive overhaul. We’re prepared to work with the government to find ways to make it simpler, less burdensome and fairer,” said Beatty. “We simply don’t have the luxury of falling farther behind as other countries reform their systems. We need to act now.”

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