Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As Members from Florida, we represent one of seven states that do not collect a state income tax. Instead, Florida draws a majority of its tax dollars through a sales tax.

As you may know, prior to 1986 the tax code allowed for the sales tax deduction. When Congress repealed the deduction, it resulted in a significant inequity between states. After 1986, residents of states that charge income tax could deduct their state income tax from their federal tax bill; however, those living in states without an income tax could not deduct their state taxes. These individuals paid significantly more to the federal government than taxpayers of a state that collects an income tax.

Restoring the sales tax deduction in 2004 was a great victory for our constituents. In fact, residents of Florida received approximately $750 million in tax deductions in 2005 as a direct result of the sales tax deduction. That is potentially $750 million put back into Florida's economy. At a time when the economy is beginning to falter, we need this money to keep our state's economy from slipping into recession.

Given the significance of the sales tax deduction to our state, we strongly urge you to include the deduction in any tax package considered this year. We thank you for your attention and consideration of this important request, and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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Ginny Brown-Waite, MC

Jeff Miller, MC

Allen Boyd, MC

Corrine Brown, MC

Ander Crenshaw, MC

Cliff Stearns, MC

John Mica, MC

Ric Keller, MC

Gus Bilirakis, MC

C.W. Bill Young, MC

Kathy Castor, MC

Adam Putnam, MC

Vern Buchanan, MC

Connie Mack, MC

Dave Weldon, MC

Tim Mahoney, MC

Kendrick Meek, MC

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, MC

Robert Wexler, MC

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, MC

Lincoln Diaz-Balart, MC

Ron Klein, MC

Tom Feeney, MC

Mario Diaz-Balart, MC

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