November 20, 2017

Dear Purdue Graduate Students,

Like you, we have been following the deliberations on tax reform by the US Congress closely. While there are many parts of the tax reform package that would affect higher education, we are well aware of the repeal of the tuition waiver exemption for graduate students that is currently under consideration. We wanted you to know that we are supporting the higher education organizations to which Purdue belongs (Council of Graduate Schools – CGS, Association of American Universities – AAU, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities – APLU, and others) in actively challenging the repeal of this exemption – an example from AAU is shared below:


It is safe to say that our national organizations are fully engaged with our elected officials on this issue.

Of course, the history of tax reform suggests that many early ideas don’t make it to the final version of the legislation. And, as you are likely aware, the graduate tuition waiver exemption repeal is not part of the US Senate tax reform proposal.

In the larger scheme, it is important to remember that all Americans, including in many ways our higher education community, would benefit significantly from a simpler tax system and the stronger economic growth it would generate.

We will keep you posted should anything change with respect to our advocacy on this issue. But, for now, we are working to make sure the position of higher education on this issue is made clear to our elected officials.

Linda Mason
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and Professor of Entomology

Jay Akridge
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