

(PLEASE SELECT THE APPROPRIATE TITLE)

Dear Congressman/ Congresswoman/ Senator:

I am writing to urge you to support making permanent the lower 15 percent tax rate on dividends and capital gains. Unless Congress acts before the end of this year, the maximum tax rate on dividends will more than double. As one who has invested my savings in stable, dividend-paying stocks, I oppose increasing the taxes on dividends. The economic recovery is fragile. Now is not the time to increase taxes on my efforts to secure my financial future.

OPTION: Insert a brief description about why you are interested in this issue.

EXAMPLES: I am retired and I rely on regular dividends.

I am a shareholder in a utility and believe that dividends should not be at high rates.

The benefits of the 15 percent rates expire on December 31, 2010. As that date approaches, individual investors are becoming increasingly uncertain about the tax treatment of both their current holdings and those they are considering buying. Extending the lower rates as soon as possible would remove that uncertainty and the market volatility that would otherwise result.

Congress also should address the unfair, double taxation of dividends. They are taxed at the corporate rate of 35 percent, then again at the individual tax rate. Even with the lower 15 percent tax on individuals, the federal tax rate can still reach 45 percent, and could go as high as 60 after 2010. State taxes add another 5 percent on average.

Because the economy needs certainty and stability, I strongly urge you to support legislation to make permanent the lower tax rate on dividends and long-term capital gains.

Sincerely,