

How to Contact your Elected Officials

Given the impact the TCJA implementation of Sect. 174 is having on small- and mid-sized businesses, ABGI clients are urged to contact their federally elected officials, asking them to immediately support legislative action that will reverse the implementation of Sect. 174.

A change in law, passed by the House and Senate, is the only way this provision can be reversed. The IRS is required to implement the laws Congress passes. It will literally take an Act of Congress to get this action reversed.

How can you help?

- A. Contact your elected officials** asking them to support legislation that will reverse this harmful provision. You are represented by two Senators (U.S. Senate) and one Congressman/woman (U.S. House of Representatives). It is possible that you reside – and vote – in one Congressional district and your business is in another. It is appropriate to contact *both* Representatives on behalf of yourself and your business.
- a. To find your **Senators**, search by your state here: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>. Every state has two Senators who represent the entire state. Regardless of your party affiliation, these Senators represent you and your business. You are encouraged to contact both Senators on this issue.
 - b. To find your **Representative**: if you know your Representative's name you can search by name here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>. If you are not sure who your Representative is, you can look it up by zip code here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>. You should look up your home/voting address as well as your business address and contact both Representatives.

Once you have found your Senator and Representative, you will be able to click into his/her official website. Most Members have a “Contact” portion on their website. **You will need to call their Washington, D.C. office.** (Note: If you have personal relationships with any elected officials or their staffs, please contact them on this issue as well.)

B. Call the elected officials Washington, D.C. office.

- When you call, first ask “Who is the Tax Legislative Assistant?” (Tax L.A.) Write this person’s name down so you have it for future reference.
- Then explain that you are the owner, operator, employee, etc. of a company in their State or District and that you would like to talk to the Tax L.A. about the Sect. 174 amortization provision.

What to say? Below are suggested talking points to use in your conversation with Congressional staff. Make your comments personal to you and your business while also showing the negative impacts of Sect. 174. The elected officials need to very clearly understand what the impact is in his/her state/district. They will care about jobs in their district.

Talking Points: *What to say when speaking to Elected Officials and/or Congressional Staff.*

- 1) I am contacting you about Sect. 174. I own/operate/work at [Your Company Name] in your State/District.
- 2) The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provision requiring Sect. 174 R&D expenses to be amortized over five years is resulting in a crippling expense for our 2022 tax bill. Our tax liability increased significantly from 2021 to 2022 as a result of this change.
- 3) We will have to make decisions about hiring and investing in future research, innovation, and development if we are required to pay this amount. *Include specifics as to what actions your company would take if forced to pay the tax bill. How many full time employees would potentially lose their jobs - or how many fewer hires would you make - because of Sect. 174 expenses, etc.*
- 4) As one of the state’s most innovative companies, innovation and development are core to our business and to our success. With this change in law, we are being penalized - rather than encouraged - to make investments in our business.
- 5) Senators, please cosponsor and support S.866, introduced by Sens. Hassan and Young.
- 6) Congressman, please contact Cong. Ron Estes’ office to cosponsor the legislation he recently introduced. Please sign on to support that bill.