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June 25, 2019

Chairman Richard Neal
House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Kevin Brady
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, the National Education Association is writing to offer the following comments in connection with this morning's House Ways & Means Committee hearing on how recent limitations to the state and local tax deduction (SALT) harm communities, schools, first responders and housing values. The NEA thanks you for holding this very important hearing.

NEA continues to strongly oppose the unfair and largely political SALT limitation contained in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA). The deduction for SALT payments has been part of our Tax Code for as long as we have had a federal individual income tax. This new limitation targeted states that have adopted progressive and balanced tax systems. As a result, many taxpayers in these states are paying more in federal income taxes than before TCJA was passed. This dramatically impacts our nation's educators, many of whom benefited from this long-standing deduction. This change in treatment for SALT payments will have a significant impact on the ability of states and localities to fund their obligations, such as those for public education. NEA will continue to work with this Committee and Congress to repeal this inequitable limitation.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association

