

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
ON BEHALF OF

FAMILY ENTERPRISE USA



Family Enterprise USA

**Advocating for
Family-Owned Business**

Written Statement of Becky Renfro Borbolla
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United States House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business

*“Lower Taxes, Stronger Main Street:
The Benefits of the Working Families Tax Cuts”*

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Family Enterprise USA
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Good morning, Chairman Williams, Ranking Member Velázquez, and Members of the Committee. My name is Becky Renfro Borbolla of Fort Worth, Texas, and I am the Senior Vice President of Renfro Foods, a third-generation family business that produces Mrs. Renfro's salsa, sauces, and relishes.

Mrs. Renfro's was started by my grandparents shortly after the Great Depression when my grandmother and grandfather, Arthurine and George Renfro, began creating delicious spices and vinegars in their home on Gould Avenue in Fort Worth. "Mam-Maw" Renfro preferred to be called "Mrs. Renfro," so it was a natural that their products, which soon expanded to syrups and the southern relish commonly known as "chow-chow," were named in her honor.

During the 1960s, my grandparents sold Mrs. Renfro's products at fruit and vegetable stands in Fort Worth and eventually expanded our product line to include hot sauces and picante sauces. This is when our family's business truly began to become the brand that is today.

Before long, my grandparent's company outgrew their home, and they purchased a building nearby on Stella Street, where our company is still headquartered today. Mrs. Renfro's products are now sold in supermarkets, gourmet food stores, and gift shops in all 50 states and in more than 30 countries worldwide.

Family has always been central to Renfro Foods. My father, Bill, and his siblings, Jack and Linda, spent much of their childhood at the building on Stella Street. As adults, they joined the company, devoting their time to growing Renfro Foods. Dad was the company's longtime CEO, leading corporate strategy functions of the business, and his brother Jack was the COO, handling the manufacturing as well as shipping and receiving aspects of the business.

Today, my cousin Doug, my brother James, and I are the third-generation management of our family's company. Through it all, we've remained a small family company in the same building in that fast growing Texas town known as "where the West begins." We've made it because we've stayed true to the things "Mam-Maw" and "Paw-Paw" Renfro cared about from the beginning: True to family. True to flavor.

The passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in July of last year was critical for businesses like ours—family-owned, small businesses whose products can be found around the world, yet remain deeply rooted in our local communities. What began as a modest enterprise has, over generations of hard work and reinvestment, become the foundation of our family's livelihood—past, present, and future. The certainty provided by permanently extending key provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) that support small businesses has helped ensure that this work can continue into the next generation.

As others on the panel will discuss today, the permanency of provisions like the 20 percent small business deduction under Section 199A, along with policies that support growth and investment—such as full bonus depreciation—helps businesses like ours continue to compete with much larger companies operating in the same market space. Small businesses are grateful that Congress acted to prevent a massive tax increase and to provide the stability necessary to plan, invest, and hire without the uncertainty of temporary tax policy.

For family-owned businesses, the increase and permanence of the estate and gift tax exemption was especially meaningful. It provided long-overdue certainty and allows families like mine to focus on long-term planning, reinvestment, and succession—rather than costly estate planning to prepare for a sudden tax change that could disrupt decades of work. That stability has been invaluable.

By unhappy coincidence, this is an issue that has been particularly important to our family. Last week, my uncle Jack passed away at the age of 89. Our family's company was a part of Jack's life for nearly his entire lifetime, and he was known for sharing jars of Mrs. Renfro's salsa with everyone he met. Our family benefited greatly from Jack's wisdom, humor, and kind heart. His work, alongside my father Bill, has been such an important part of why Renfro Foods is what it is today.

As Congress considers ways to continue strengthening this support, there are opportunities to build on that success. Ideally, eliminating the estate tax, often called the "Death Tax," altogether would be the most complete solution to allow family-owned businesses to grow, reinvest, and transition across generations without disruption. Short of that, a rate that is no more than the capital gains tax would further support long-term investment and continuity, while supporting family-businesses like mine to be passed down to future generations.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of these issues and the opportunity to share my family's experience today. I look forward to any questions you may have.

Thank you.