

**Government Finance Officers Association
United States Conference of Mayors
National Association of State Treasurers
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
American Hospital Association
Airports Council International – North America
National Community Development Association
American Public Power Association
International Public Management Association for Human Resources
National Association of College and University Business Officers
American Society of Civil Engineers
National Association of Health and Educational Facilities Finance Authorities
Large Public Power Council
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Association of Bond Lawyers
National Association of Municipal Advisors
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National School Boards Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
International Municipal Lawyers Association
American Public Works Association
American Water Works Association
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers
National Association of Regional Councils**

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2017

Dear Chairman Brady:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, which represent hundreds of thousands of members of the municipal bond issuer and user community and professionals who work for issuers, we write to express our opposition to provisions in H.R. 1 that eliminate financing tools utilized by State and local governments, schools, hospitals, airports and special districts and other public sector entities to provide critical investments in infrastructure and save taxpayer money.

Municipal bonds are a means to finance vital infrastructure used by state and local governments. As public issuers, we have grave concern over the bond provisions in H.R. 1. In particular, there are two provisions where we strongly urge your reconsideration: (1) the repeal of the ability to advance refund municipal bonds and (2) the termination of the ability to use private activity bonds (PABs).

The ability to advance refund outstanding bonds provides substantial savings to taxpayers throughout the country. Under current law, governmental bonds and 501(c)(3) bonds are permitted one advance refunding. This allows public issuers to take advantage of fluctuations in interest rates to realize considerable savings on debt service, which ultimately benefits taxpayers. GFOA best practices recommend minimum savings thresholds on a present value basis of 3-5 percent when advance refunding municipal securities. In 2016, the advance refunding of more than \$120 billion of municipal securities saved taxpayers at least \$3 billion.

PABs are widely used for airport and seaport projects, affordable housing, nonprofit health, and education facilities, all of which contribute to vibrant local communities. In 2016, over \$72 billion in PABs used largely by nonprofit hospitals and universities were issued and in the same year over \$12 billion were issued to support airports, housing, and rural public cooperatives. By eliminating PABs, the federal government is dictating to states and local governments the types of financing methods they may use, thereby undermining vital projects that provide essential public services.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose the inclusion of these Subtitle G provisions in the final bill.

Sincerely,

Government Finance Officers Association, Emily Swenson Brock, 202-393-8467
Airports Council International – North America, Annie Russo, 202-293-8500
American Hospital Association, Mike Rock, 202-638-1100
American Public Power Association, John Godfrey, 202-467-2929
American Public Works Association, Andrea Eales, 202-408-9541
American Society of Civil Engineers, Brian Pallasch, 202-789-7852
American Water Works Association, Tommy Holmes, 202-326-3128
Association of American Medical Colleges, Karen Fisher, 202-828-0525
International Municipal Lawyers Association, Charles W. Thompson, Jr., 202-466-5424
International Public Management Association for Human Resources, Neil Reichenberg, 703-549-7100
Large Public Power Council, Noreen Roche-Carter, 916-732-6509
National Assoc. for County Community and Economic Development, Heather Voorman, 202-367-2405
National Assoc. of Health and Educational Facilities Finance Authorities, Chuck Samuels, 202-434-7311
National Association of Bond Lawyers, Jessica Giroux, 202-503-3303
National Association of College and University Business Officers, Elizabeth Clark, 202-861-2553
National Association of Counties, Jack Peterson, 202-661-8805
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies, Heather Voorman, 202-367-2405
National Association of Municipal Advisors, Susan Gaffney, 703-395-4896
National Association of Regional Councils, Leslie Wollack, 202-618-6363
National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers, Cornelia Chebinou, 202-624-5451
National Association of State Treasurers, Preston Weyland, 202-347-3863
National Association of Towns and Townships, Jennifer Imo, 202-454-3947
National Community Development Association, Vicki Watson 202656-9552
National Council of State Housing Agencies, Garth Rieman, 202624-7710
National League of Cities, Mike Wallace, 202-626-3023
National School Boards Association, Deborah Rigsby, 703-838-6208
United States Conference of Mayors, Larry Jones, 202-861-6709

Attachment: Volume of Advance Refunding Bonds and Private Activity Bonds (PABs)

ADVANCE REFUNDINGS

TIME PERIOD	Par Amount (US\$ mil)	Mkt. Share	Number of Issues
2012	73,205.0	18.6	1,989
2013	49,418.4	12.6	1,424
2014	59,211.9	15.0	1,265
2015	91,825.8	23.3	1,792
2016	120,083.3	30.5	2,019

Source: Thompson Reuters, data accessed 11/2/2017

PRIVATE ACTIVITY PRIVATE ACTIVITY FOR 501(C)3

TIME PERIOD	Par Amount (US\$ mil)	Mkt. Share	Number of Issues	Par Amount (US\$ mil)	Mkt. Share	Number of Issues
2012	13,035.1	22.8	144	56,583.9	20.6	1,078
2013	10,315.0	18.0	124	48,683.9	17.7	1,028
2014	9,345.0	16.3	119	40,951.1	14.9	842
2015	12,267.2	21.4	148	56,805.7	20.6	993
2016	12,257.4	21.4	137	72,386.1	26.3	1,064

Source: Thompson Reuters, data accessed 11/2/2017