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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2003

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February 19, 2016

Commissioner John F. Barr
169 Conduit Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2512

Dear Commissioner Barr:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for the preservation of tax-exempt municipal bonds. I appreciate your views on this matter and welcome the opportunity to respond.

I firmly believe we should be putting Americans to work rebuilding our nation's critical infrastructure - roads and bridges, public transportation, and public schools. By taking action now we could save or create jobs for millions of Americans, strengthen our nation's economic backbone, and allow commerce to flow more freely to all parts of our country. Infrastructure spending literally builds stronger communities and a more secure America and I understand the important role tax-exempt municipal bonds play in financing many local and state infrastructure projects.

With that in mind, I believe that the tax code should reflect our nation's values-encouraging private enterprise and innovation, strengthening communities and ensuring that the shared costs of government are distributed equitably. Each year, Congress considers numerous proposals to modify the tax code. Changes to the current tax structure must be undertaken with the greatest caution so as not to cause unanticipated consequences for American taxpayers or compromise the Nation's overall fiscal outlook. Although I am not a member of the Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over tax matters in the House, I will keep your comments in mind and plan to study carefully any tax reform proposals that come before the full House of Representatives.

Again, I appreciate hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me about other issues of concern to you in the future.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

JPS/pg

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