March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019



### **Agenda**

- Increased Policy Uncertainty
- 199A in the Bunker
- Treasury Attacks Manufacturers
- SALT Efforts
- S Corp Modernization

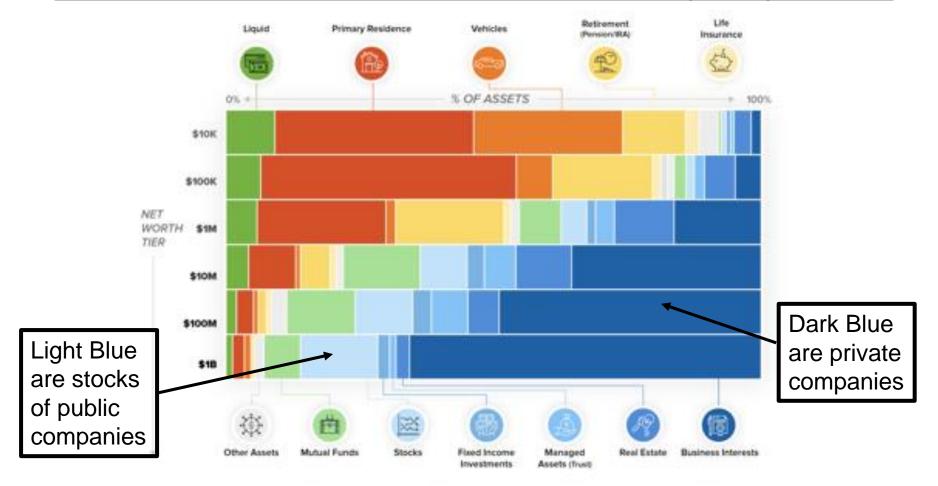


#### World of Uncertainty

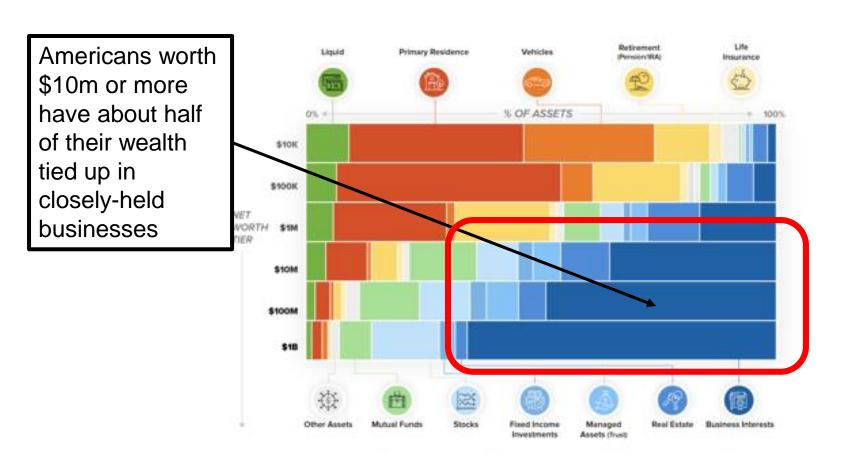
- Policy Gap between Republicans and Democrats is large and growing
- Democrat proposals to date:
  - 70 percent top individual tax rates (AOC)
  - 77 percent top estate tax rate (Sanders)
  - 2-3% Wealth Tax (Warren)
  - 0.1% Transactions Tax
- Why does S-Corp need to be concerned?



Private Businesses at heart of income inequality debate



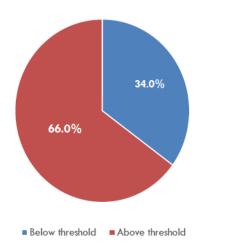
Private Businesses at heart of income inequality debate



### 199A Deduction

- This chart got lots of attention last week. It was part of a JCT presentation on 199A and it played right into the income inequality debate taking place in Congress
- Why should wealthy business owners get a deduction when wage earners do not?

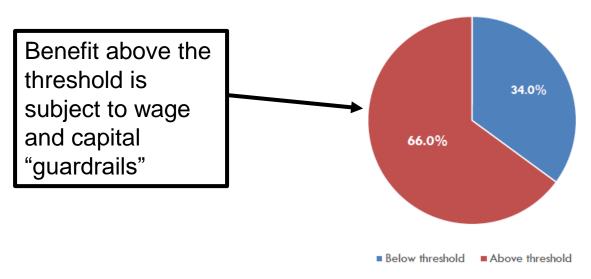
Share of Section 199A Tax Benefit
Above and Below Threshold



#### 199A Deduction

 Lost in the criticism were the limitations placed 199A for larger businesses – you only get the deduction if you employ workers or invest significant amounts of capital

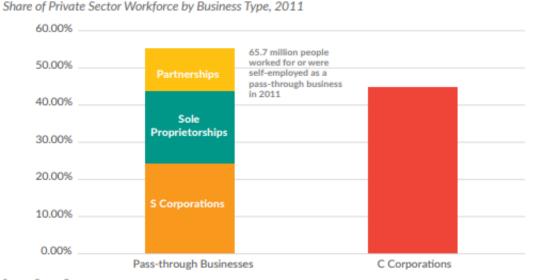
### Share of Section 199A Tax Benefit Above and Below Threshold



#### 199A Deduction Response

 Pass-through businesses are a key part of the economy – they are responsible for the majority of private sector jobs, employing nearly six-out-of-ten workers

Figure 5. Pass-through Businesses Employ More Than Half of the Private Sector Workforce

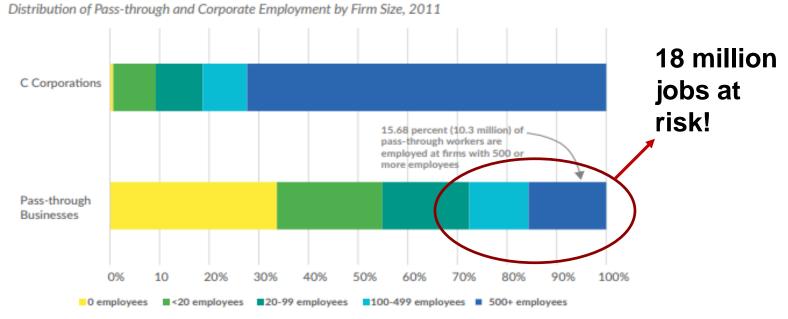


Source: Census Bureau.

#### 199A Deduction Response

Large pass-through businesses (with at least 100 employees)
employ nearly one-out-of-six workers – 18m workers get up
and go to work at a large pass-through every day

Figure 6. Not All Pass-through Businesses Are Small Businesses



Source: Census Bureau.

#### 199A Deduction Response

The 199A deduction is necessary to restore parity with the new,
 21-percent corporate rate

#### 199A Pass-Through Deduction

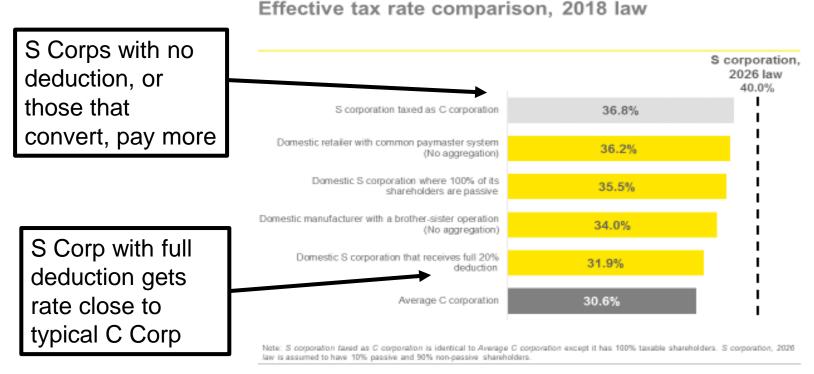
Effective Business Top Rates under TCJA Vary Widely



Includes full double tax for C Corps. 37% rates, NIIT, and loss of SALT deduction for pass throughs

#### 199A Deduction Response

 EY Study: Pass-through businesses that receive the deduction come close to rate parity with the typical C corporation



#### 199A Deduction Response

 Multiple studies confirm the EY results that pass-throughs with the deduction achieve something close to parity, while those without pay significantly higher rates

	With 199A Deduction		Without 199A Deduction	
	C Corporation	Pass-Through	C Corporation	Pass-Throu
DeBacker & Kasher Market Returns (AEI)	19%	20%	19%	27%
DeBacker & Kasher Above Market Returns (AEI)	16%	21%	16%	30%
Barro & Furman (Brookings)	26.0%	31.1%	26.0%	35.5%



#### 199A Deduction

- The tax provision 199A continues to take on fire
  - The Left dislikes it because it is earned by wealthy taxpayers
  - Some on the Right dislike it because its complicated and detracts from the lower corporate rate





#### 199A Deduction Implementation

#### **SSTB**

#### Non-SSTB

#### Below Threshold (\$315k)

- Must be a real section 162 trade or business
  - Rental property faces a 250 hour test
- 20% deduction on all QBI
  - Limited to 20% taxable income less cap gains
- Reasonable comp, guaranteed payments excluded
  - No comp requirements for LLCs & sole props!
- 3-Year Independent Contractor Limit

#### Above Threshold (\$415k)

- Long list of service businesses disqualified from 199A
- May break up into multiple trades or businesses
- Wage & Capital guardrails apply
- May aggregate multiple trades & businesses
- 5/10% de minimis threshold

## Between Thresholds

Deduction is phased out for SSTBs

#### 199A Deduction Response

- Our #1 Priority is to establish that 199A is necessary for passthrough businesses to maintain parity with the new, 21-percent rate
- We are speaking with David Winston to conduct focus groups and polling on the state of private companies and how to best discuss them with voters and policy makers
  - David has done a lot of work on the subject of the private sector and trust and is highly interested in
- Also working with EY to build on last year's report and further highlight the importance of 199A to pass-through parity

#### 199A Deduction Response

- Our second priority is to make the case for 199A permanence:
  - Jason Smith (R-MO) introduced the 199A permanence bill in the House with bipartisan support (Henry Cuellar (D-TX))
  - Working with Senator Daines to introduce the companion bill in the Senate
  - Circulating a business community letter through our Main Street Employers coalition in support
- Goal is to roll out the Senate bill and letter the week preceding April 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Pass-Through SALT Efforts

- Our efforts to restore the pass-thru SALT deduction continue
- We released a new analysis making the legal case:
  - It reviews the new WI law, but its arguments are relevant to other states
  - Makes clear our reform's legal basis is well grounded and should survive scrutiny by the IRS and the courts
- Meanwhile, the IRS continues to target the charitable fix:

AGENCY: TREAS-IRS RIN: 1545-BO89 Status: Pending Review

TITLE:State and Local Tax (SALT) Credits and Charitable Contributions [TCJA]

STAGE: Final Rule ECONOMICALLY SIGNIFICANT: No

RECEIVED DATE: 03/22/2019 LEGAL DEADLINE: None

AGENCY: TREAS-IRS RIN: 1545-ZA06 Status: Pending Review

TITLE:Notice - Guidance Under Sections 164 and 170(c) [TCJA]

STAGE: Notice ECONOMICALLY SIGNIFICANT: No

RECEIVED DATE: 03/22/2019 LEGAL DEADLINE: None

### Section 163(j)

- Treasury's proposed rules for the new interest deduction limitation – Section 163(j) – include a penalty for manufacturers
  - The rules disallow depreciation allocated to inventory from being included in the calculation
  - The result is the 30% cap on interest is based on EBITDA for most taxpayers, but just EBIT for manufacturers
  - Has the effect of driving up marginal rates on manufacturers sharply
- In response, S-Corp:
  - Submitted written comments during the comment period for the rules
  - Is meeting with Treasury on the 4<sup>th</sup> to go through the challenge

#### **S Corp Modernization**

- Working with Senator Thune (R-SD) and Rep. Kind (D-WI) on identifying provisions and finalizing the bill
- Had a very positive meeting with Thune's tax staff on locking down the new provisions
- Goal is to introduce the bill prior to our June meeting

### **Conclusion**

- Continue our robust efforts to promote the interests of S corps and Main Street businesses
- Two Additional Items:
- Save the Dates: Our Annual meeting is here in DC on June 17-19<sup>th</sup>. Be on the lookout for future emails with additional information
- S-CORP PAC: We are making a concerted effort to raise more resources and host more events. If you have a company or trade association PAC, please donate and help the cause

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

