

Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce

"The Nation's Summer Capital"

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May 16, 2024

The Honorable Tom Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Carper,

I'm writing to you today on behalf of the Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,300 members and supports businesses in the state's busiest beach resort area, to express our support for the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) program, which was and continues to be a critical lifeline for local – and small businesses, in particular – to keep employees on payroll as they continue to bounce back from the devastating impact of the pandemic.

As you know, many business owners in Rehoboth, Dewey, and surrounding communities were forced to shut their businesses down entirely or severely restrict operations through no fault of their own, and many still face lingering impacts of the pandemic, from supply chain struggles to rising costs and high interest rates.

Despite those challenges, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) still has a backlog of more than 1 million unaddressed ERC claims, forcing some businesses to close entirely or exist in a state of limbo as the program's future remains uncertain.

We hope that you will help ensure that the IRS expeditiously processes the existing backlog of ERC claims before the end of this Congress, give thoughtful consideration to any early sunset of the ERC program, and provide a grace period for final applicants to submit claims.

While the ERC has provided important support for businesses throughout the country, including many here in Southern Delaware, the current backlog and moratorium on ERC claims processing is only causing further pain for the very businesses the program is designed to support.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue facing businesses here in Rehoboth and Dewey and throughout our great state.

Sincerely,



Carol Everhart
President and CEO, Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce