



September 25, 2013

Chair Anthony Williams  
D.C. Tax Revision Commission  
1101 Fourth Street, SW, Suite W750  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Williams,

The Greater Washington Society of CPAs is pleased to have the opportunity to share information with the DC Tax Revision Commission. Given that the majority of our 3,300 members directly advise District residents, businesses and nonprofits on tax issues or have business dealings in the District themselves -the work of the Commission is of critical importance to us and our membership.

We have been following the work of the Commission, and have read with interest a number of the submitted resources compiled by other individuals and groups. We also recently conducted a survey of our membership regarding their interactions with, and perceptions of, various agencies and aspects of doing business within the District. Tax was not the sole focus of this survey, but tax issues were among those included. As such we believe the resulting report of that survey's responses will be of interest to the Commission as you begin your deliberations. You will find it attached.

The survey had 165 respondents in total, with 85% having some current business activity in DC. Overall they voiced a great deal of frustration or difficulty related to their experience in doing business within the District, enough so that more than half would divert business activity from the District to a neighboring jurisdiction when possible. Notably, while our respondents did cite a less favorable tax or fee environment in DC, the biggest issues by far were the difficulties they faced in navigating administrative processes, finding information and resolving questions or issues with District agencies when they arose for themselves or their clients. In addition to the statistical report on the short survey, we have included the text responses providing specific examples of their difficulties as well as suggestions on how the District could make improvements.

We hope this will be helpful as you continue deliberations, and are happy to answer any questions the Commission may have on this survey or other subjects related to our membership and programs.

Sincerely,

Kari Bedell  
Executive Director