

A Financial Transaction Tax is a Tax on Main Street, and Americans Overwhelmingly Oppose It

Over the last couple months, we have seen renewed calls for Congress to impose a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), a sweeping tax on financial trades of all kinds, such as trades of stocks, bonds, and derivatives.

What happened: During a recent Capitol Hill hearing some said that an FTT is an idea whose time has come. The Chamber strongly [disagrees](#) with that notion, particularly since the U.S. already lived through an unfortunate experience with an FTT from 1914 until it was repealed in 1965 in an overwhelming bipartisan vote by a Democratic Congress.

Why it matters: Bringing back an FTT would be a huge mistake for Main Street, consumers, taxpayers, retirees, states, and localities. Democratic and Republican [voters understand](#) that an FTT does more harm than good, particularly when they consider the other policy priorities where Congress can make a difference. The money collected by an FTT comes at the expense of money that would go to saving for retirement, a first home, or a child's education.

Strong opposition: According to a recent poll conducted by the Chamber's Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness (CCMC), a majority of Americans ([63%](#)) are deeply concerned and opposed to proposals to re-impose an FTT. Moreover, a majority of the voters CCMC surveyed believe an FTT would undermine pressing policy priorities, particularly the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as government's top priority.

What we're doing: The Chamber has consistently opposed efforts to impose an FTT and will continue to be a vocal advocate against this policy. Through our advocacy efforts and broader communications campaign, we will encourage policymakers to stand in bipartisan opposition to an FTT and focus on rebuilding the U.S. economy and reviving American jobs from the effects of the pandemic.

Dig deeper:

- Learn more about [CCMC's recent poll](#).
- Read CCMC's 2019 [report on FTTs](#).

—Tom Quaadman, Executive Vice President, Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, U.S. Chamber of Commerce