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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Michawn Rich 202-224-6244 |
| July 20, 2015 |

**Heller Tax Priorities Clear Finance Committee****(Washington, DC)** –Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) spoke at the Senate Committee on Finance markup to consider an Original Bill to Extend Certain Expired Tax Provisions. You can watch Senator Heller’s remarks by clicking the video below. A list of Senator Heller’s priorities included in the bill is also provided below. PhotoCLICK HERE TO WATCH**Heller Tax Provisions Included in Legislation:*** [**Making permanent state and local sales tax deductions**](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=61e70b30-7b53-4f09-a56d-32b98652faa3) – This bipartisan provision, which Senator Heller introduced as a standalone bill (S. 126) alongside Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) in January, allows for a permanent deduction of state and local sales taxes. Nevada is one of several states electing to use sales taxes rather than income taxes to finance government services. By making the state and local sales tax deduction permanent, the bill would help level an uneven playing field by ensuring Nevada is afforded the same treatment in the federal tax code as states with an income tax.
* [**Ensuring mortgage forgiveness is not taxed as income**](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=9fffd670-a7d0-4381-9eaf-27a71a5bebbc) – Senators Heller and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) introduced this bipartisan legislation in February to ensure, when homeowners work with their banks to reduce their mortgage payments, those homeowners will not be hit with a huge tax bill. Without this legislation, homeowners will be required to pay additional taxes when they receive mortgage principal forgiveness on their homes or sell their homes in what are commonly called “short sales.”
* [***Conservation Easement Incentive Act of 2015* (S. 330)**](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=8ee84018-12fc-4785-8532-8f2ad80e5da4) – Authored by Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Representatives Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Mike Kelly (R-PA), this legislation provides a permanent enhanced tax incentive to family farmers, ranchers, and other landowners who choose not to develop their land and instead preserve their property for conservation. By providing tax benefits to landowners who choose conservation, the bill helps preserve our nation’s farm lands and open spaces for posterity. In February, this legislation [passed the U.S. House of Representatives](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=bce46921-d29d-4146-ae83-342a002b2e50).
* Solar Commence Construction – This amendment provides parity across the renewable energy sector so that all technologies are treated equal. By modifying Section 48 of the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) from a “placed in service” standard of eligibility to a “commence construction” date in extenders, this provision would allow large-scale solar projects – which take multiple years to permit, finance, construct and place in service – to receive equal treatment with renewable industries, like wind. Even for projects already under development, the ITC is expired.

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