**Hurricane Relief Bill – Tax Credit for Businesses**

Congress passed the Hurricane Relief Bill and the bill was signed into law on September 29. This tax reform package benefits businesses that were affected by Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria. Companies located in the disaster zones will be eligible to take a credit equal to ***40 percent of an employee’s wages, paid within the timeframe that said company was rendered inoperable upon impact of the hurricane***.

The period of eligibility for the employee retention credit begins on August 23rd for Hurricane Harvey, September 4th for Hurricane Irma, and September 16th for Hurricane Maria and ends on January 1, 2018 across the board. Forty percent of wages paid to each employee within that time frame (up to $6,000) will be eligible under this provision. The retention credit is not a part of the Internal Revenue Code but instead will be enacted as a temporary tax provision.

Unlike the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program, employees do not have to fall into a certain category to earn their employers these tax credits. If you are or know of any businesses that were rendered inoperable because of these storms, please know we are ready to assist you or them concerning this credit.