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**Subject:** Republicans divided over taking up tax extenders this year

By Brian Faler

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Republican leaders are divided over whether to take up a second tax-cut bill this year.

Senate Republicans want to move legislation reviving a rump group of tax "extenders," separate from their more sweeping plan to rewrite the code.

But the House's top tax writer isn't so sure.

"I don't like the extenders," said House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas). "It's horrible policy and process."

"No decision yet," he added, saying lawmakers need to talk it over.

His comments came after Sen. John Thune, the chamber's No. 3 Republican, said today lawmakers will revive biodiesel, geothermal and other energy-related breaks along with other "cats and dogs," including a tax credit to maintain short-line railroads.

Thirty-four temporary tax provisions expired at the end of last year, including 16 energy ones, and lawmakers are now facing demands to revive them. Some want to attach the provisions to funding legislation needed to keep the government open H.J. Res. 123 (115).

Many Republicans had sworn off the "extender" ritual after a 2015 tax agreement made many of the breaks permanent while giving others what lawmakers said was one final extension — which, for some, ended last year.

Putting together an extender bill, even as lawmakers negotiate a final compromise on their tax-overhaul plans, is likely to test tax writers' bandwidth.

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