



American Institute of CPAs  
1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004-1081

April 10, 2013

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins  
House Committee on Ways & Means  
Tax Reform Working Group on  
Income and Tax Distribution  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph Crowley  
House Committee on Ways & Means  
Tax Reform Working Group on  
Income and Tax Distribution  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Income and Tax Distribution Tax Reform Working Group

Dear Congresswoman Jenkins and Congressman Crowley:

The AICPA strongly supports the leadership taken by the House Committee on Ways & Means in studying a variety of topical areas as part of comprehensive tax reform. The proliferation of new income tax provisions since the 1986 tax reform effort has led to complex compliance hurdles for taxpayers, administrative complexity and enforcement challenges for the Internal Revenue Service. According to the National Taxpayer Advocate's 2012 Annual Report to Congress, "individuals and businesses spend about 6.1 billion hours a year complying with the filing requirements of the Internal Revenue Code."<sup>1</sup> It also noted "the costs of complying with the individual and corporate income tax requirements for 2010 amounted to \$168 billion – or a staggering 15 percent of aggregate income tax receipts."<sup>2</sup> We consistently have supported tax reform simplification efforts because we are convinced such actions will significantly reduce taxpayers' compliance costs, encourage voluntary compliance through an understanding of the rules, and facilitate enforcement actions.

We are available to assist you in this process, and will be providing comments to several of the working groups that have been established. This letter specifically provides comments on adopting a uniform approach to determine whether an annual adjustment for inflation is necessary to the various dollar amounts provided in the Internal Revenue Code. A brief summary of our analysis and recommendation on inflation is enclosed for your consideration. We also suggest that you review the [AICPA's Tax Policy Concept Statement #1: Guiding Principles for Good Tax Policy](#) to assist you in identifying problems in the Code as well as analyzing any new proposals against the principles of good tax policy. A copy of that concept statement is also enclosed.

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<sup>1</sup> [National Taxpayer Advocate's 2012 Annual Report to Congress](#), Volume One, MSP #1 "The Complexity of the Tax Code."

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

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We appreciate your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (304) 522-2553, or [jporter@portercpa.com](mailto:jporter@portercpa.com); or Melissa M. Labant, AICPA Director – Tax Advocacy & Professional Standards, at (202) 434-9234, or [mlabant@aicpa.org](mailto:mlabant@aicpa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Porter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "P".

Jeffrey A. Porter, CPA  
Chair, Tax Executive Committee