

ATTN: International Tax Reform Working Group

Dear Representative Nunes and Blumenaur,

I am writing to ask that the International Taxation Committee of the Ways & Means Committee for Tax Reform seriously consider the ACA proposal for reform to Residency-based taxation RBT. See link:

<http://americansabroad.org/files/6513/6370/3681/finalsbrbtmarch2013.pdf>

As one of nearly 7 million American citizens living, working, and voting from abroad, and contributing to the economic growth of the U.S. economy, I believe the current Citizenship based taxation regime must be reformed. Current tax policy is negatively affecting this important sector of Americans and their ability to compete for jobs, grow the US economy through international business and exports, and live overseas. Current tax policy damages both individuals and the welfare of our country.

The following are some examples of the fallout on Americans working overseas from current U.S. Citizenship based taxation:

- Inability to relocate and work internationally
- Denial of job opportunities or job advancement
- Refusal of entry into business partnerships
- Closure or denial of financial instruments (pensions, insurance policies, bank accounts, etc.)
- Exposure to double taxation or increased tax burden
- Financially ruinous penalties due to broad application of criminal tax evasion regulations on those making simple filing errors due to complexity of the US tax code.

I have been personally affected by this situation. Due to FATCA and other US initiatives, it has been very difficult to open even a simple checking account here in Switzerland so that I can pay my bills. Most banks turn away that business entirely these days. Being a US citizen here in Switzerland can feel like being *persona non grata*. Part of my work involves advising banks here on compliance with US law, however, merely being a "US person" means that I am not physically welcome on the premises of some of the banks we advise! I am not a high net worth individual, merely an average American seeking to earn his living abroad. Despite not having owed a dime of income tax to the US in the past 8 years, I have spent hundreds of dollars and many, many hours trying to comply with a US tax code that seems to grow more complicated each year. The burden of being an American abroad has become increasingly difficult in the past decade.

Please seriously consider the RBT proposal submitted by American Citizens Abroad (ACA). A move towards a residence-based system, like the rest of the world, not only would be simpler and fairer for Americans living abroad, but it would actually bring in MORE tax revenue than the current system, which wastes compliance resources for very little return. RBT would increase United States exports strongly by facilitating American mobility in the global business environment of today's world. America is being left behind by its unwillingness to allow its citizens to engage with their counterparts abroad on the same level playing field enjoyed by the citizens of every other country.

Yours sincerely,

Jared Bibler, CFA