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/finalsubrbtmarch2013.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 American 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. My bank, UniCredit, Italy, did not allow me to jointly purchase financial products such as bonds, together with my Italian husband. The account had to be solely in his name, the bank told us, because of the onerous IRS requirements regarding compliance to regulations established by the IRS for accounts owned by US citizens. The bank now refuses to have my name as joint owner on the account. Previously my husband and I always had joint accounts and joint ownership. This situation is very dangerous for us personally, since my husband is now 81 and had to be admitted to the emergency room at the hospital twice last week for heart problems. If something happened to him I would have major problems at the bank, as you can imagine.

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 today's global business environment.

Thank you very much for your work and your help.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]