

Mr. Chairman,

I want to thank you and the Ranking Member for holding this very important hearing on Tax Reform and Consumption-Based Tax Systems. In this time of economic uncertainty and fiscal difficulty, Congress must look at reforming our tax system to make it simpler, fairer, and more efficient.

I believe the best way to achieve these goals of a better tax code is the Fair Tax. I have supported and co-sponsored Fair Tax legislation since coming to Congress. This legislation promotes freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity.

As you know, the current tax code is thousands of pages long, and people spend countless wasted days preparing their complicated tax returns each year. The income tax rates and corporate tax rates are too high, and tax expenditures exist for a wide variety of industries, allowing the government to pick and choose winners, instead of the marketplace. We can do much better for the honest, hard-working American taxpayer.

I support simplifying the tax code, making the government less intrusive, and creating an environment more conducive to saving. The Fair Tax as proposed would abolish the Internal Revenue Service, would repeal the income tax and a host of other taxes, and would eliminate the alternative minimum tax and death tax. In its place, this legislation enacts a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the states.

While some might argue that consumption taxes like the Fair Tax would penalize Americans who spend most of their income, this pro-family legislation allocates a sales tax rebate for low-income families based on family size and income. Every family would receive a rebate of the sales tax up to the federal poverty level, plus any amount to prevent a marriage penalty. In short, the Fair Tax ensures our tax system remains equitable for all.

Under our current tax system by which our own U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is so confused that he fails to pay some of his taxes, the need for a comprehensive overhaul is now. By creating a simpler tax code, the government becomes less intrusive, giving Americans more freedom over their finances. I wholeheartedly support the Committee's efforts to closely examine the need for a better tax structure, and I urge my colleagues to carefully consider the Fair Tax as part of any broad tax system overhaul.

JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress
First District of Florida

The Honorable Jeff Miller (FL-01)
United States House of Representatives
2416 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4136

casey.street@mail.house.gov

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