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James Evans
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Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101-0378

Dear James:

Thank you for contacting me about suggestions to reduce the complexity of our federal income tax system. I appreciate hearing from you concerning this matter, and I greatly appreciate the suggestions outlined in your enclosures.

I believe there is a great deal that is wrong and overly-complex about our current tax system, and I welcome a national debate on alternative approaches to funding the federal government. Recently, there has been a renewed interest in various types of "flat-rate taxes," including proposals that would shift our funding mechanism from an income tax to a consumption tax, along with more traditional proposals to adopt a flat rate tax structure. President Bush has appointed an advisory panel, the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform, to provide specific suggestions to reform the tax code.

I look forward to the advisory panel's recommendations, and I would encourage you to contact the panel with your specific recommendations. Recently, the panel solicited submissions on proposals to reform the tax code, providing an April 29, 2005 deadline. You may contact the panel at:

The President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform
1440 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 2100
Washington, DC 20220
comments@taxreformpanel.gov

During my time in Congress, I have worked hard to strike the right balance between making sure people get to keep as many of their hard-earned dollars as possible, while at the same time making certain we have enough money to provide critical services to our citizens, including Medicare, Social Security, education, and defense. I will continue to work toward crafting a tax structure that funds important areas of public life, while making the taxpayer's burden of compliance as minimal as possible as Congress considers tax reform proposals throughout the 109th Congress.

Thanks again for contacting me, and please keep in touch!

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson

TPJ/ehc