

I'm writing to unreservedly support pending legislation (S. 601, H.R. 878) that would require brokerage houses and mutual funds to report to the IRS the cost basis as well as the proceeds of customers' stock trades.

Wages have been reported by a third-party to the IRS since WWII. There is no good reason why capital gains from stock transactions should not similarly be reported.

It's the right thing to do, it will help to close the tax gap, and it will raise the tax compliance percentage for capital gains into the ultra-high 90s (as it already is for wages, because wage-earners know that the IRS has their earnings information).

No matter which way you look at it, basis reporting for publicly-held securities is a no-brainer.

Gerald E. Scorse