

I appreciate this opportunity to submit some brief thoughts about the current fiscal situation in this country. Simply it cannot continue to go the way that it has been – middle class Americans (if a middle class really exists today) need relief.

My wife and I have had nothing but a huge struggle to live comfortably since the economic downturn after raising and educating two children in NY. Ahead of the financial crisis, high taxes were always a problem in NY and they continue to be today. We left the state in 2013 and moved to North Carolina for some relief while I continue to work. However the alternative minimum tax has been and continues to be the bane of our existence. We are not wealthy people, lost a lot during the crisis and are saddled with large federal education loans we took so that our children could go to college and not have a huge debt burden hanging over their heads all their lives.

If things continue the way they are, we may never own another home again and I expect never repay back the education loans we took before we die. My income then is not what it once was and my career has been interrupted numerous times by company/industry downsizing and reductions in force. This has been the other side of a vicious cycle.

- 1) The Federal Government has overstepped its boundaries in the lives of its citizens;
- 2) The Federal Government is incapable of solving all of the ills of society; national social programs have failed;
- 3) Many components of the Federal Government should be dismantled and given back to the people through state rights – one example – the Department of Education – it is broken; another example the IRS – completely politicized and broken;
- 4) The Federal Government should cut back on many social programs – they aren't working – they basically keep people down; people should either work, learn to work and then work; those that are really incapable of any work should be helped – but the standard definition of incapable should be clear cut; from what we understand, maybe it is true and maybe it isn't, many people who took social security disability during the downturn never went back to work; we question how many of them have actual disabilities that preclude them from working;
- 5) Why do less than ½ of Americans, or people inhabiting this country not pay any taxes?
- 6) Why has the AMT (which is killing our financial future) been let loose on so many individuals it was never intended to target to ensure some kind of “wealth” taxes are paid?
- 7) Why is our nation's corporate income tax the highest in the world? Our nation evolved as a nation of business – what are we heading for?
- 8) We are taxed in so many way – regressively, progressively, add-on taxes, at every level of our lives. Our earned income is taxed; if we save some of that taxed earned income we pay another tax when it earns interest or a different tax if it earns capital gains.
- 9) Estate taxes, death taxes, gasoline taxes, sales taxes, real-estate taxes, health care taxes and fines, school taxes, state and county taxes.....on and on and on.....it never ends.
- 10) Our nation has become what England was to the colonies of the 18th century. While I understand there needs to be some level of taxation in the US to defend our country and ensure infrastructure and possibly provide for our elderly and infirmed who can no longer work, what I do not understand is why it is so complex; why it requires months of work to meet our “tax commitment” – what is it now 5 or 6 months of work to cover our tax bill? Why there is so much effort to prepare income tax filing for a mid-April deadline.
- 11) Why is China our largest creditor?
- 12) Why is the Congress and the President of the United States incapable of being honest with the American people and looking out for our best interests?

