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Individual Income Tax Working Group
Finance Committee
US Senate
Washington, DC

Subject: My expat views on US tax policy

Dear Working Group:

I am writing to you about my experience with US tax policy as an American living abroad.

Despite not setting foot in the US during 2014, I was forced to pay US income tax on the salary I earned while living full-time in Germany.

As you're aware, the US is the only industrialized country that taxes its citizens' foreign earnings. This puts a large burden on many US citizens who live abroad. Citizens must comply with 2 systems of taxation and often pay into both of them. I myself was forced to pay a German attorney who specializes in US tax law for Americans living in Germany. As you can imagine, such specialized skills are very expensive.

Please consider changing the definition of a US person in section 7701(a)(30) of the federal tax code in order to allow citizens living outside the US to avoid the expense and liability of dealing with two tax systems. If the code were changed, for purposes of taxation, to not recognize citizens meeting a bona fide residence test or physical presence test in a foreign country, it would help many Americans. I believe this change could be made without legislative action.

Sincerely,

Quentin Appleby