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April 15th, 2015

United States Senate Committee on Finance 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear members of the Committee,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the subject of our nation's tax code. I am a US citizen currently living abroad in Beijing with my family, and employed by a NASDAQ listed American company as General Manager for the China region. I have spent several years overseas in Europe and Asia, always in similar management roles.

The current US system of taxation based on citizenship rather than residency, coupled with the reporting requirements of FATCA and FBAR, has placed a tremendous burden on my family and me. It has made life difficult for us as we struggle to gain access to basic banking services overseas, since foreign financial institutions would rather reject American customers outright than risk potential non-compliance with our nation's complex web of tax regulations. It imposes real costs on us when double taxation treaties inevitably fail to account for every possible scenario. In addition, the costly burden of engaging tax professionals and complying with tax regulations from two countries falls squarely on us.

Let me also highlight that the financial costs and time required to comply with US tax regulations have made it difficult for my company to attract American talent into key roles that are needed to expand our business into overseas markets. We need our best and brightest to help American companies become global leaders, and it is not helpful when companies are penalized for trying to give international opportunities to talented workers.

Americans live overseas for many reasons, and the vast majority of them are not abroad because they are trying to hide assets or avoid paying taxes in the United States. Some, like me, work for US companies proudly promoting American products and solutions in other countries. I would ask the members of this Committee to please consider the following recommendations so that Americans living abroad for extended periods do not have undue burdens placed on them.

- 1. Change the definition of a U.S. person in section 7701(a)(30) of the federal tax code. For example, if a U.S. person meets the bona fide residence test or physical presence test for two or three consecutive tax years, they would no longer be considered a U.S. person for federal income tax and reporting purposes.
- 2. Eliminate FATCA and FBAR requirements for US Citizens who live overseas, or at least consolidate the requirements. The Committee could also consider a same-country exception when reporting foreign bank accounts under FATCA so that if (for example) an American is living in Canada, the Canadian accounts are not considered foreign for filing purposes.

Lagain thank the members of the Committee for their kind attention on this very important matter.

Yours sincerely,

David Georg