March 31, 2015

To whom it may concern,

Citizenship based taxation has meant immense financial hardships for me. Since it is virtually impossible for someone who is not a tax accountant to prepare taxes for an American living abroad, I am forced to spend roughly $1,500 in Canadian dollars (about $1,250 USD) annually on a tax accountant. This represents nearly 15 percent of my annual income.

Not only do I have to bear the heavy burden of the accounting costs, but I lose the tax shelter status that all Canadians who don't have American citizenship enjoy with a Tax Free Savings Account. I understand that Americans also have tax shelters such as an IRA, which I cannot take advantage of, therefore I will have much greater difficulty saving for retirement than an average Canadian or American.

I was born and raised in Canada and have lived here for my entire 42 years. As a result of America's citizenship based taxation policies I feel like a second class Canadian and a second class American. This patently unfair policy is destroying lives including my own. My personal health has suffered due the stress that this policy has caused me, and I even thought at one point I might be incarcerated all because I was unaware of my tax filing obligations. It is time for America to reverse this travesty of a policy and adopt residence based taxation.

Sincerely,

Alex Schattner