To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in my capacity as a natural-born US citizen living in the United Kingdom in response to your request for public opinion on tax reform.

I very strongly view the conditions for taxation on Americans living abroad as inherently unfair and unreasonable, especially when viewed in context with modern norms amongst industrialised nations. Despite the fact I make virtually no use of US services, I am subject to full federal taxation (minus deductions). Due to the complexity of reporting, I am forced to refrain from engaging in a good many common investments which could have a tangible impact on my financial well-being as participating in said investments would require hiring an expert international tax accountant, which would in turn entail extremely high fees. I have opted not to buy a house as the tax implications would see me incurring double taxation on any capital gains, which defies reason. Why on earth should I be subject to capital gains tax on a residence in the UK when I have not lived in the US in over 10 years?

The time and cost required of me to prepare my personal US taxes far exceeds that of an American living in the US. Viewed in light of the fact I make little or no use of the services provided by the US government, this seems inherently unreasonable.

I would support a move towards Residency-Based Taxation (RBT), which would bring the USA in line with the major industrialised nations. It is rare that any of the 7 million Americans abroad will make substantial use of services provided by the US federal government. When we do, such as when we renew a passport, we are charged a premium to do so. I would fully support a point-of-sale charge for any services which reflect any added cost due to the fact I am living abroad.

Finally, American citizens living abroad have no representation in congress. As such, the line “no taxation without representation” comes to mind. Instead of a single Senator or House rep, I would prefer to not pay income and capital gains tax as this means I am **doubly taxed** due to the face I choose to live abroad. This is not freedom. Clearly as a freeborn American citizen I should have the choice to live and pay tax where I reside without incurring a penal tax burden back home for doing so.

I sincerely hope you will take into consideration the aforementioned points and move to quickly implement a Residency-Based Tax regime.

Kind Regards,
Matthew Holmes
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