ATTN: US Senate Finance Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an American living and working abroad in Switzerland. I write in hopes that you consider changing the US Federal Tax system to a residency rather than citizenship based system for individuals to treat people like myself more fairly.

A bit about my situation. I have been working and living in Zurich, Switzerland for the last 6 years as a lawyer for a Novelis, a company based in Atlanta, Georgia. During my time here, I have earned approximately USD$300,000 per year in annual salary. As the sole earner for my family, my salary allows us a comfortable but by no means extravagant lifestyle, given the high cost of living here.

As you know, the current US tax system requires that I pay US income tax on top of my Swiss income tax. I have paid US taxes of approximately $20-22,000 every year that I have lived in Switzerland. Also, I am forced to retain both US and Swiss tax advisors at a cost of $3,000 per year to complete my complex and confusing tax returns (when I lived in the US, I did my own tax returns with the help of TurboTax). In other words, I earn annually net $23-25,000 less than my Swiss colleagues who do the same job as me just because I am an American. While this may seem like a small amount, this money would make a big difference to me and my family if we were instead allowed to keep and save it.

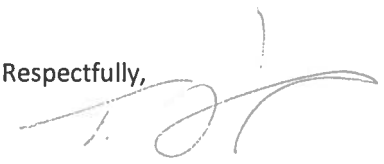
Additionally, I am disincentivized to fully participate in pension schemes offered to me, since the US tax system does not recognize all of my Swiss pension earnings as deferred.

It does not seem fair that I am being taxed without any real representation, while availing myself to a small fraction (in comparison to domestic based US tax payers) of the services and infrastructure paid for by my taxes.

In four years I will be eligible for Swiss citizenship. I will be faced with a choice of either saving the money I pay in US taxes and tax advisory fees by becoming Swiss and renouncing my US citizenship, or continue paying US income taxes by remaining American. Basically, I will be asked to decide between what my head says and what my heart wants. In my heart I will always be an American -- I was born, raised, and lived most of my life in the USA. But my head says that I should decide based on my family's financial well-being.

For these reasons, I support a change of the US Federal Tax system to a residency rather than citizenship based system for individuals.

Respectfully,



Fortunato Lucido

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