April 13, 2015

To: USA Senate Finance Committee
USA International Tax Working Group

RE: Tax Reform

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I were born and raised in Colorado. In 1983, at the ages of 29, my employer transferred us to Canada. We have resided in Canada since then. We are now dual USA/Canadian citizens. My wife retired in 2013 and I retired in 2014. Our families on both sides all live in the USA and over the past thirty plus years we average visiting "home" twice a year. Our oldest daughter is also a dual citizen, married to a Canadian citizen and living/working in Canada. Our other daughter is a dual citizen attending university in Canada and working part-time. We have been compliant with all USA reporting requirements since 1983.

I am writing this letter to convey my support for a residence based tax system and to express my extreme dismay over the unfairness of the USA tax code on Americans living abroad. Complying with the current Citizenship- based tax system has caused us significant stress over the years in filing tax returns and other compliance requirements which are of such complexity that one must seek professional help to comply. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in accounting fees during the past 32 years. Over the past few years it seems like every year brings additional requirements but none are taken away. For tax year 2013 our compliance required the following forms to be submitted: 1040 with schedules A, B and D, 8833, 8949,116 x 3, 6251, 2555 x 2, 4952 x 2, 8960, 6252 x 2, 8582, 8891, 8938, 8621 x 9 (Passive Foreign Investment Company or PFICs) and form 114 for Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBARS). Our return was nearly 200 pages in length. Our 2014 tax year filings are currently be completed by our accountants and we anticipate a similar complexity in their completion. The accounting firm has given an estimate of $25,000 Canadian to complete our USA filings.

An additional example of our dismay over this issue is our children`s situation. Using our 21 year old daughter as evidence of this please note the following. She is a 21 year old university student. Her 2013 wages were $2800 and her adjusted gross income was ($1379) as a result of investment losses. Her USA tax liability was $7.00 (even this simple fact is beyond my understanding). She had to file forms 1040 with schedules B and D, 8949, 1116 x 4, 6251, 2555, 3520, 8621 x 3 (PFICs), plus form 114 for FBARS. When a 21 year old university student is paying more in accounting fees than she earned in wages it is a pretty sorry state of affairs. When both my daughters (21 and 28) are considering giving up their USA citizenship over this issue it is an even sorrier state of affairs. It is such an unnecessary shame, especially considering that they

potentially could be wishing to reside and work in the USA. What a potential loss of resources for the USA.

We have no way of knowing what it costs the USA government to intake and review our annual filings but we cannot imagine how this benefits the USA. The current USA tax code and financial regulatory requirements establish an unfair and unreasonable expectation on law abiding USA citizens living and working abroad. There must be something that can be done to correct these injustices which would reduce our anxiety and stress, minimize the cost burdens and take away the incentives for renouncing USA citizenship.

Thank you for requesting our comments. Please do something to help alleviate these unfair burdens.

Sincerely,

Wes Campbell
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Calgary, AB [redacted]
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