

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0909

May 8, 2002

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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Carl MacMillan
2591 Countryside Boulevard
Clearwater, Florida 33761-4519

Dear Carl:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns with our nation's tax system. I appreciate hearing from you.

First, let me apologize for the delay in responding to your letter. I pay close attention to all the mail I receive, sometimes over one thousand letters in a busy week, and this means that I cannot always respond as quickly as I would like. I value your comments and willingness to participate in the legislative process. I hope that you will continue to contact me on any federal issue that is important to you.

I have been a strong and consistent advocate of reducing the tax burden on all Americans. You will be pleased to know that I voted in favor of H.R. 1836, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, which was signed into law by the President on June 7, 2001. This law has many components that are targeted toward reducing the tax burden on the American family. In addition, I voted in favor of H.R. 586, the Tax Relief Guarantee Act of 2002, on April 18, 2002. This legislation, if enacted, would make the tax relief provisions contained in H.R. 1836 permanent. H.R. 586 has been forwarded to the Senate for further consideration.

You will also be pleased to know that during the 106th Congress I cosponsored H.R. 4199, the Tax Code Termination Act, and voted for the bill when it was approved by the House of Representatives by a vote of 229 to 187 on April 13, 2000. H.R. 4199 would have sunsetted the current tax code effective December 31, 2004. To avoid any disruption of Social Security and Medicare, the bill would have exempted those payroll taxes. It also would have required that Congress approve a replacement tax code no later than July 4, 2004, in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new system. Unfortunately, the Senate did not consider this bill and H.R. 4199 was not enacted into law before the 106th Congress adjourned.

Former Representative Largent introduced similar legislation, H.R. 2714, in the 107th Congress. Although Representative Largent resigned his seat midway through the 107th Congress, his legislation may still be considered by the House of Representatives this year. Rest assured I will

remember your concerns about the constitutionality of the income tax should I have the chance to vote on this or similar legislation.

Again, thank you for the benefit of your views. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future regarding any issue of importance to you.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress

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