



December 16, 2011

An Open Letter to the United States Congress: Support the Jobs Through Growth Act!

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the 362,000 members of the National Taxpayers Union (NTU), I urge you to support H.R. 3400, the "Jobs Through Growth Act." Introduced by Rep. Garrett (R-NJ), this bill would fundamentally reform the Tax Code, make dramatic improvements to the regulatory process, and counteract the bureaucratic obstructionism holding back domestic energy production. In so doing it provides a powerful, pro-growth counterpoint to the Obama Administration's tax-and-spend "jobs" proposal.

Over the past several months two separate visions for job creation have emerged. The first, embodied in President Obama's "American Jobs Act," is a mixed bag of temporary tax relief and rehashed stimulus policies funded through tax hikes targeted at politically convenient industries and individuals. Rather than double down on the failed idea that Washington can spend its way to prosperity, the Jobs Through Growth Act seeks to establish conditions for the private sector to compete, grow, and create jobs.

H.R. 3400 would begin the vital task of rationalizing our confusing, inefficient Tax Code. Using the NTU-endorsed Taxpayer Choice Act of 2007 as a model, the bill would repeal the alternative minimum tax, make the capital gains and dividend tax relief of 2003 permanent, and establish a simplified alternative to the current individual income tax system. By using just two tax rates (15 and 25 percent) and eliminating many tax preferences that distort economic activity, the optional system promotes simplicity while more than adequately addressing any lawmaker's purported concerns with "fairness." H.R. 3400 would also reduce the corporate tax rate to 25 percent, in turn resolving one of the many flaws in the Tax that are making it ever-harder for the United States to compete in an increasingly globalized economy.

To further create an environment conducive to a robust recovery, the Jobs Through Growth Act would implement a number of regulatory reforms needed to streamline the process and reduce needless burdens on job creators. Chief among these changes is the NTU-endorsed "Regulations in Need of Scrutiny Act," which would provide a strong measure of accountability and transparency to the regulatory process by requiring congressional approval for all rules that have an economic impact of more than \$100 million per year. H.R. 3400 would also enact a several new protections for small businesses, which often carry a disproportionate burden for complying with regulations.

Finally, the bill would help put an end to the calculated government inaction that is holding back the U.S.'s ability to explore and develop its natural energy resources. Collectively, this legislation will loosen the federal government's stranglehold on offshore oil and natural gas deposits and remove barriers to approving the Keystone XL pipeline.

For too long, discussions about "stimulating" the economy – a loaded phrase in itself – have centered on pouring more taxpayer money into inefficient and ineffective federal programs and agencies. The Jobs Through Growth Act provides Congress with an altogether different blueprint, one that harnesses the power of the private sector to steadily drive our economy toward prosperity. Accordingly, NTU urges your colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 3400 and work for its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Greife".

Brandon Greife
Federal Government Affairs Manager