

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address March 16, 2012

### “The Prescription for Changing the Tax Code”

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Hello this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. Now, Tax Day is just about a month away. The complexity of the Tax Code has grown by leaps and bounds since the federal income tax was introduced in 1913 – 99 years ago.

When it was first created, the tax code was only 400 pages long. The latest version from the IRS has over 70,000 pages. The Tax Foundation estimated in 2007 that the average person spent 79 days working to pay for federal taxes, and 41 days for their state and local taxes. To pay just your federal taxes, that’s one hour and 45 minutes out of every 8-hour working day.

The tax system is so complicated that even the IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman has said that he finds the tax code complex and he has to hire a preparer. If the man who is in charge can’t understand it, how can we expect anyone else to even begin to comprehend?

We know what works when it comes to changing the code because we caught a glimpse of it when Ronald Reagan cut the tax code in half in 1986. As a result of that reform, the economy grew, revenues increased, and jobs were created. I cannot think of a better prescription for our economy now than replicating the reform of the Tax Code on an even greater scale.

So what should we do? The prescription is pretty simple: flatten the tax, broaden the base, and shift the burden away from families and small businesses. We must simplify the Tax Code and make it easier for individuals and businesses to use. That’s why I have introduced a Flat Tax bill every year that I have been in Congress.

Another benefit of the Flat Tax is that it incorporates the all-American principle of freedom. If you like the current system, then you can keep it. The decision to move to a single rate system would be entirely up to the individual or the business, not the government. This would be an optional program.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information on the flat tax and legislative issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website, [burgess.house.gov](http://burgess.house.gov). May God bless you and your family - and as always, may God bless Texas.