

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address February 13, 2014

“The Time for a Flat Tax is Now”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. This week, I once again introduced my flat tax bill, H.R. 1040. I’ve discussed this idea with you all before. But the possibility of enacting this important measure has never been closer to reality.

Consider that Russia, despite the terrible unrest that is occurring in that region, has one of the biggest success stories for a flat tax. During the first two years following the enactment of their flat tax in 2001, Russia’s economy rose 10 percent. Inflation-adjusted income tax revenue in Russia has grown by 50 percent. If Russia can do it, so can the United States. And at a time when even the president called for a flat tax in his State of the Union address, and Republicans control both houses of Congress, the possibility for a flat tax has never been higher.

The concept of a flat tax is simple. Gone would be the days of having to decode our convoluted and complex tax code. Gone would be the days of spending even more money just to file your taxes. And gone would be the days of an unfair structure that stifles economic growth and individual prosperity.

Under this legislation, parts of which were included in the House-passed budget for 2015, there would be one single rate of taxation. It would allow businesses and individuals to opt into a 17 percent flat tax, which is the figure that historically has been shown to adequately fund the federal government. For those who want to file their taxes as they did before, they would be permitted to. But it is my opinion that once people see how simple it is to file their taxes on one sheet, rather than navigating thousands of documents, they will not want to return to the old system.

Many states and several countries around the world have implemented a single flat tax. The benefits have been proven. And while I will continue to introduce this important legislation for as long as I have to, I believe the time for a flat tax is now.

As always, I appreciate your questions and comments on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.