

Burgess Weekly Video Address April 18, 2014 “Tax Day”

Hello this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. It's that time of year again:

Your taxes are due. And if you are similar to millions of Americans, the feeling is the same this month as it is every April: This is coercive, disruptive and takes too much of your hard-earned money.

It does not have to be this way. I have introduced legislation in support of a flat tax at the beginning of each Congress in which I've served. This bill is known as the Flat Tax Act.

The idea of a flat tax as applied to income is not a new one. 42 countries around the world and 10 states have enacted some form of a flat tax, but yet the federal government has shied away from the idea.

That is, until now. Just last week, the House considered the Republican Fiscal Year 2015 budget. This is an economically responsible budget that will balance in 10 years and boost economic growth. Within it, there is a provision stating that Congress should seriously consider the Flat Tax Act as a way of moving towards comprehensive tax reform.

A flat tax may not be enacted this year, but I am encouraged that the idea is becoming more widely accepted.

At its core, a flat tax is a simple notion: Everyone is taxed at the same rate or proportion of income. Our bill would dramatically simplify the tax code by offering Americans the option to pay a single rate of tax instead of navigating the web of confusing tax provisions.

Under our bill, both individuals and businesses could be taxed at a flat rate of 17 percent.

A flatter, fairer tax structure would be simple and tax returns would be done on a single page. The days of Americans spending more than 6 billion hours on their tax forms would end. A flat tax would also eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax, capital gains taxes, the estate tax and the marriage penalty. These are gimmicks. They're unpopular, they're unfair, and they suppress economic growth. We can do better.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments on this issue. More information can be found on my website, at burgess.house.gov. Thank you for

taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may
God bless Texas.