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S. RES. 16

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the income tax should be eliminated and replaced with a national sales tax.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the income tax should be eliminated and replaced with a national sales tax.

Whereas the savings level in the United States has steadily declined over the past 25 years, and lagged behind our industrialized trading partners;

Whereas our economy cannot achieve strong, sustained growth without adequate levels of savings to fuel productive activity;

Whereas the income tax, the accompanying capital gains tax, and the estate and gift tax discourage savings and investment;

Whereas the methods necessary to enforce the income tax infringe on the privacy of our citizens and divert an estimated \$157 billion of taxpayer resources to comply with its rules and regulations;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Service estimates that each year it fails to collect 17 per centum, or \$127 billion, of the income tax owed to the Federal Government;

Whereas the income tax system employs a withholding mechanism that limits the transparency of Federal taxes;

Whereas the most effective tax system is one that promotes savings, fairness, simplicity, privacy, border adjustability, and transparency;

Whereas it is estimated that the replacement of the income tax system with a national sales tax would cause our savings rate to substantially increase;

Whereas the national sales tax would achieve fairness by employing a single tax rate, taxing the underground economy, and closing loopholes and deductions;

Whereas the national sales tax would achieve simplicity by eliminating recordkeeping for most taxpayers and greatly reducing the number of collection points;

Whereas the national sales tax would be the least intrusive tax system because most taxpayers would not be required to file returns or face audits from the Internal Revenue Service;

Whereas the national sales tax is border adjustable and would place United States exporting on a level playing field with our foreign competitors;

Whereas a national sales tax is a transparent tax system that would raise Americans' awareness of the cost of the Federal Government; and

Whereas a national sales tax would best achieve the goals of an effective tax system: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that:

2 (1) the income tax system, both personal and
3 corporate, the estate and gift tax, and the accom-
4 panying capital gains tax be replaced with a broad-
5 based, single-rate national sales tax on goods and
6 services;

7 (2) the national sales tax rate be set at a level
8 that raises an equivalent level of revenue as the in-
9 come taxes replaced;

10 (3) the Federal Government work with the
11 States to develop a State-based system to administer
12 the national sales tax and that States be adequately
13 compensated for their efforts; and

14 (4) the Congress and States work together in
15 an effort to repeal the sixteenth amendment.

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