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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3306

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
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AND PENSIONS
JUDICIARY
SMALL BUSINESS
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May 7, 2002

Mr. Steve Coerper
5504 Sweetbriar Street
Raleigh, NC 27609-3939

Dear Mr. Coerper:

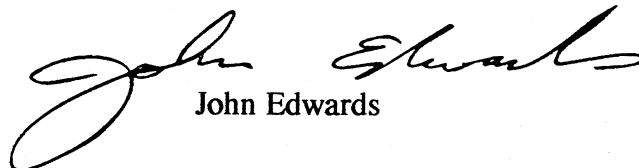
Thank you for contacting me to share your concerns regarding federal income taxes. I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue.

As you know, the federal income taxes that we pay fund essential government services, creating and improving things which affect our daily lives. Our taxes pay for such things as the streets on which we drive, our military, and keeping our food and water supplies safe. Each year, Americans file more than 125 million income tax returns. The only people who are exempt from paying taxes are those whose gross annual income falls below the filing requirement -- which was \$7500 for 2001.

Americans deserve to have their tax money spent wisely. As a fiscal conservative, I believe that government should neither take nor spend a dime more than absolutely necessary. This is not rhetoric, but a commitment to help our government operate more efficiently. And it is a promise to eliminate both wasteful spending and corporate tax loopholes. Tax loopholes are expected to cost the government \$3.7 trillion over the next seven years. Closing tax loopholes and curbing wasteful spending will allow Congress to reduce taxes for working-class families in a responsible manner.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts. Please feel free to contact my office if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



John Edwards

JE/spk