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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
JUDICIARY  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

May 23, 2002

Mr. Donald Bernau  
4377 W. Loomis Rd. Lower  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220

Dear Mr. Bernau:

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me about the income tax. I appreciate hearing from you and would like to take this opportunity to address your concerns.

With the ratification of the XVI Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the U.S. Congress was granted the authority to tax the income of U.S. citizens and certain other income earned in the United States. In other words everyone who has an income is subject to taxation.

The money that you pay in taxes is put toward many important uses. Public education, higher education assistance, the interstate highway system, U.S. National Parks, and the U.S. national defense, including the Army and the Navy, are examples of indispensable services funded through tax dollars. In addition, the government uses tax dollars to provide economic assistance and health care for elderly people and poor families with young children. This is not to say that government waste does not exist, and I am always looking for ways to combat wasteful government spending.

With that said, I believe that American families -- especially middle and lower income families -- are bearing a greater and greater share of the tax burden in this country. As such, I recently supported H.R. 1836, the "Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001," which lowered the tax rate for all income taxpayers. You can be assured I will continue to support efforts to ease the tax burden of American families like yours.

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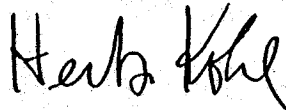
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Again, thank you for contacting me. I appreciate knowing your thoughts on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Herb Kohl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "H" and "K".

Herb Kohl  
U.S. Senator