

**Subject:****Date:** Fri, 31 May 2002 10:48:52 -0400**From:** Congressman McHugh <Congressman.McHugh@mail.house.gov>**To:** "poochies@gisco.net" <poochies@gisco.net>

May 31, 2002

Mr. Ken Knudsen  
3139 State Route 11  
Malone, New York 12953-9502

Dear Ken:

I received your communications concerning the Truth-in-Taxation hearings held earlier this year by We the People Foundation. As always, Ken, I appreciate hearing from you.

For the last decade, the government has taken an increasing share of Americans' personal income. One of my priorities as your Representative is to lessen the burden the federal government places on taxpayers. That is why I have made a concerted effort in Congress to reform the tax system, reduce taxes and ensure that taxpayers maintain their rights in their dealings with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). While I do not have the privilege of serving on the House Ways and Means Committee, I can tell you I have worked with members of the panel over the years to move tax relief initiatives through the legislative process and into law. For example, last year we enacted across-the-board tax reductions, providing immediate tax relief through the reduction of individual income tax rates. We repealed the marriage tax penalty and the inheritance tax, doubled the child care tax credit, and increased the deductible amounts for various savings vehicles. Additionally, in recent years we have approved several measures reaffirming the rights of taxpayers.

That having been said, the issues raised by the Foundation - that the IRS lacks legal jurisdiction to enforce the federal income tax within the borders of the United States, the federal income tax system is unlawfully applied, and that the IRS routinely violates the 4th amendment and due process rights - are certainly not new. As you may know, these arguments have been consistently rejected by the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, which have historically held there are no constitutional or legal grounds for failure to file tax returns, failure to pay taxes or failure to withhold taxes on wages.

I believe that elimination of taxes in the manner advocated by the Foundation would be highly irresponsible. I've never been one to argue against the usefulness - even the great need - for government. Indeed, I strongly believe that the federal government does some absolutely necessary things that require funding as derived through an equitable and comprehensible tax code. In my view taxes are not bad by definition, although the way in which they are levied, collected and expended certainly can be.

While I may not share your views on this matter, Ken, I certainly respect your right to hold and express them in any manner you may choose. Accordingly, the difference in our opinions on this issue notwithstanding, I hope you will continue to share your views with me on matters of interest and concern before the Congress, as I value your input.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. McHugh