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Congress of the United States
Joint Economic Committee
Democrats

108TH CONGRESS

804 HART SENATE OFFICE
BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6602
202-224-0372
FAX 202-224-5568
www.senate.gov/~jec/democrats

WENDELL PRIMUS
STAFF DIRECTOR

TAX PATRIOTS DAY IS APRIL 15

April 15, 2003

Dear Colleague:

April 15 is "Tax Patriots Day," celebrating our annual patriotic duty to pay for the government services we need and rely on. In 2003, the typical American family worked:

- 6 days and 6 hours to support our men and women in uniform and maintain a strong national defense.
- 1 hour to give local first responders the resources and tools to respond to possible terrorist attacks that threaten our communities and America's way of life.
- 1 day to repay all America's veterans for their sacrifice and service to our country through medical benefits and other services tailored to meet their needs.
- 1 day and 1 hour to make sure every American child gets a Head Start, receives an education, has a chance to go to college and is given an equal opportunity to succeed.
- 8 days and 4 hours to support Social Security that guarantees every American a secure retirement or survivor benefits if a spouse or parent dies.
- 4 days and 3 hours to fund Medicare that provides quality health care for all Americans when they reach 65 or if they struggle with a disability.
- 5 days and 1 hour to help poor families receive Medicaid and pull themselves out of poverty, and provide low-income children with free school lunches.
- 2 hours to ensure that all Americans have clean air and water, national parks to enjoy and pristine wilderness to treasure.

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- 1 day and 1 hour to pay for maintaining America's 42,000 miles of interstate highways and other roads, bridges and other transportation systems throughout the country.
- 3 hours to aid America's farmers who make our nation the breadbasket of the world.
- One-third of an hour to inspect our food supply and medicine to make sure it is safe.

These are just some of the services Americans paid for. In all, the typical American family worked 38 days in 2003 to pay their share of federal taxes for the year and fulfill our patriotic duty to America. In doing so, we paid to secure our nation, protect our communities, help our veterans, support the elderly and disabled, educate our children, give a leg up to poor families, protect the environment, improve our roads and infrastructure and stand behind our farmers. On this day, we should be proud for fulfilling our patriotic duty to help make a better future for America.

Sincerely,

Pete Stark
Ranking Member