

**Summary of Select News and Commentary from
Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)
April 1, 2013-December 31, 2013**

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National Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Small Business Needs Big Business to Pay Its Fair Share](#)

Roll Call, John Arensmeyer, **Small Business Majority**, 12/9/2013

We need a balanced approach that strengthens our economy while asking huge corporations to pay their fair share. This is a strategy small-business owners support. **Small Business Majority's** scientific opinion polling found that 90 percent of entrepreneurs believe large corporations use loopholes to avoid paying taxes that small businesses must pay. And three-quarters say their small business is harmed when loopholes allow big corporations to avoid taxes.

But over the years, lawyers and lobbyists have created untold numbers of special tax breaks for their corporate clients — breaks small businesses don't enjoy. Household names such as General Electric Co., Boeing Co. and Verizon Communications Inc. have gone several years without paying any federal income tax at all, according to **Citizens for Tax Justice**.

[Women's, retiree groups ask voters to take sequester remedy action on Dec. 12](#)

The Examiner, Laura Gabbay, 12/8/2013

On December 12, several prominent community advocacy organizations, including the, the **Alliance for Retired Americans**, the National Disability Rights Network, **9to5**, the **AFL-CIO** and **Americans for Tax Fairness**, are asking voters to take action across this nation and contact their elected officials in Washington, D.C. The request to our representatives is to tell them to address the next round of expected 2014 federal sequester cuts. First started this past March, the sequester cuts are, some say, ham-handed, across-the-board cuts to federal spending and hit Latinos and women the hardest.

There is little debate that the effects of the sequestration cuts are not good for the country, adversely impacting everything from Head Start programs for low-income children to health care research. Due to sequestration cuts, the National Institutes of Health has been forced to cut \$1.75 billion from its budget, for example.

According to the **National Women's Law Center** today, "Congress can fix this! Closing tax loopholes will raise the revenue needed to end the sequester and protect programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from the chopping block. That's why we're joining forces with other organizations to tell Congress to end the sequester and close corporate tax loopholes."

[Tax breaks for CEOs pay for million-dollar salaries](#)

The Guardian, Jana Kasperkevic, 12/3/2013

It's no secret that US CEOs are some of the best-paid people on earth. After all, for the first time ever, the two top-paid corporate executives took home billion-dollar pay checks. What seems to be a better-kept secret, though, is that a large portion of their pay is tax deductible – which creates, effectively, a government subsidy for corporate bonuses.

It's all thanks to a lucrative tax break that's completely legal. In 1993, when Congress capped the tax deductibility of executive pay at \$1m, it allowed US corporations to deduct performance-based pay –including stock options – from their federal income taxes. The companies use the

tax-deductible stock options to lower their IRS bills. That, in turn, means that those rich executive bonuses turn into government subsidies.

The total cost to the US: in the neighborhood of \$7bn a year at last count, according to the **Economic Policy Institute**.

[Small Business Saturday Is Under Attack \(From Small Business\)](#)

The New York Times, **Robb Mandelbaum**, 11/27/2013

On Tuesday, the **Main Street Alliance**, a left-leaning, locally focused small-business trade association, announced its own campaign — this one aimed at exposing what it termed the “hypocrisy” of American Express. “Every Saturday should be Small Business Saturday, but the irony of American Express being the ones to sponsor Small Business Saturday is glaring,” said Barb Campbell, who owns Wabi Sabi, a Japanese crafts store in Bend, Ore. “Every other day of the year, American Express just puts the squeeze on Main Street merchants.”

In particular, the alliance objects to the card company’s “swipe fees,” the transaction costs billed to the merchant whenever consumers use a card at the register. American Express’s fees are the highest of the card companies; according to the Nielson Report, which tracks the card industry, the average cost of an American Express transaction is 2.22 percent, compared to 2.05 percent for a MasterCard or Visa transaction.

The Main Street Alliance also chides American Express for sheltering \$8.5 billion in profits abroad, which “robs the country of resources necessary for economy-boosting investment,” said Kelly Conklin, an alliance leader and the owner of Foley-Waite Associates, an architectural woodworking business in Elizabeth, N.J.

[American Express attacked over Small Business Saturday sponsorship](#)

Business Journals, Kent Hoover, 11/26/2013

Main Street Alliance, a left-leaning organization for local business owners across the country, wants Americans to shop at small businesses this Saturday, but they want them to pay for their purchases with cash, not credit cards -- especially not American Express cards.

American Express started Small Business Saturday in 2010, and has lots of partners in this effort to encourage consumers to do their holiday shopping on this day with locally based small businesses.

Its partners include local chambers of commerce, as well as national organizations such as the National Federation of Independent Business and Small Business Majority.

But Main Street Alliance contends that American Express' sponsorship of Small Business Saturday is a cynical marketing ploy to make consumers think the credit card company is a good partner with small business when it isn't.

"American Express is not the friend of Main Street it claims to be," said Amanda Ballantyne, director of **Main Street Alliance**.

The company charges higher swipe fees to merchants on its card transactions than other credit companies do, it takes longer to settle accounts with merchants, and it's avoiding paying its fair share of taxes by parking billions of dollars in profits offshore, she said.

[How Much Does Small Business Saturday Boost Main Street?](#)

Bloomberg News, Patrick Clark, 11/25/2013

American Express Vice President May Ann Fitzmaurice Reilly says measuring the sales impact is difficult because shoppers use different forms of payment. "We couldn't be more proud and more humbled by how small businesses have taken ownership," she says. "It's become a part of the shopping culture, along with Black Friday and Cyber Monday."

Not everyone is a fan. It's been argued that the campaign is a bigger coup for American Express than it is for Main Street businesses. And advocacy group **Main Street Alliance** is holding a press conference tomorrow to "denounce the hypocrisy" of American Express promoting small businesses while charging the credit card "industry's highest" swipe fees and corporate tax strategies.

[Op-Ed: For Democrats, a Tax-the-Rich Road to Victory](#)

The Huffington Post, Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America's Future**, 11/17/2013

Tax increases are a subject people seem reluctant to mention in the nation's capital. Republicans have convinced everyone inside the Beltway that new tax revenues are politically impossible. The talk on the Hill is that the White House is urging Senate and House Dems to accept a cuts-only budget deal for the next go-round. It seems that the conventional wisdom says tax increases are best left unmentioned.

But the conventional wisdom is wrong.

New polling by Hart Research Associates, conducted for **Americans for Tax Fairness**, confirms and amplifies findings from earlier studies showing that Americans strongly support higher taxes for the wealthy and corporations. And when we say "strongly," we mean very strongly.

[Democratic pollster: Voters OK with tax increases](#)

The Hill, Bernie Becker, 11/12/2013

Voters want to see Washington to take a deeper look at revenue increases and a broader view in general on the current budget debate, according to new data from a Democratic pollster.

Geoff Garin of Hart Research said newly released data suggests that Democrats have the higher ground politically on the new budget conference, because voters want to see a mix of tax increases and spending cuts replace the sequester.

And after the deficit declined steeply in 2013, people in the U.S. also want budget negotiators to discuss policies that would help spark the economy, as well as get the nation's books in order. "Americans do not want to have a debate about the budget that is divorced from the important issue of job creation and continuing the process of putting Americans back to work," Garin said on a conference call Tuesday.

The new poll from Hart Research found that, by a 56 percent to 39 percent margin, voters want the next budget agreement to include both revenues and cuts.

Independents and swing voters strongly backed that idea, according to the poll conducted for **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a liberal group. The poll surveyed 1,009 voters in late October, for a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

[Poll: Voters back tax hikes to offset spending cuts](#)

Politico Pro, Rachel Bade, 11/12/2013

Polling by Democratic firm Hart Research Associates found that Americans overwhelmingly want to replace at least some of the automatic spending cuts with tax hikes on large corporations and the wealthy. And that's true even for independents and some Republicans.

Leading by a 17-point margin, 56 percent of Americans say lawmakers should come up with a budget agreement that includes new tax revenue from either Corporate America or the wealthiest individuals. Thirty-nine percent favored the GOP's cuts-only approach.

The results hand ammunition to Senate Budget Chairman Patty Murray (D-Wash.), who is pushing to replace the widely unpopular sequester cuts with \$1 of new revenue from closing tax loopholes for every \$1 of spending cut.

The study was done for the liberal group **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

[Big Majorities Favor Progressive Tax-and-Spend Policies, Polls Show](#)

National Memo, David Cay Johnston, 11/12/2013

Asked what budget priorities they want Congress to focus on, 68 percent of voters chose strengthening the economy and creating jobs while just 28 percent want deficit reduction and lowering the national debt (the Tea Party platform).

Those figures come from a Hart Research Associates telephone poll of 1,009 registered voters conducted in late October for **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of 325 progressive, labor and similar organizations.

While the poll was conducted for progressives, it is consistent with other polls sampling public attitudes about the economy, taxes and federal spending.

Indeed, the latest poll shows that even a quarter of Tea Party Republicans favor some progressive tax and spend policies.

[Op-Ed: Wall Street's nightmare: Here's how to really expedite the recovery](#)

Salon, George Goehl, **National People's Action**, 11/7/2013

America has been through economic crises and recessions before, but what we've never done is recover through cuts and austerity. Rebuilding our economy means literally rebuilding, investing public money to strengthen our infrastructure, invest in our education system and create jobs that help get our nation back on its feet. It's time for the next generation of big, bold investments to launch the next great wave of American innovation and prosperity — the kinds of investments that brought us Social Security, a railroad system, cures to disease, and provided jobs and security to generations of Americans and will get us on our feet yet again.

The question, then, is: Who should pay? Are seniors, students, the poor and working class expected to continue to make all the sacrifices? Or will those who benefit the most from the laws — and in many cases lack of laws — of our nation pay their fair share and fully contribute to the rebuilding of this country.

According to a 2013 poll by **Hart Research Associates**, 62 percent of Americans support a small tax on stock, bond and market trades. The same poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans want corporations to pay more in taxes.

[Senators Want To Close Tax Loophole After JPMorgan Case, But Banks Will Still Probably Save Billions](#)

The Huffington Post, Ben Hallman, 11/6/2013

Francisco Enriquez, a tax expert at the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**, a left-leaning group that recently delivered 160,000 signatures to the Justice Department to protest the agency's settlement policy, said his group supports the legislation.

"This is a step in the right direction," he said. "But our position is that in most cases, restitution payments made as a part of a settlement should not be deductible."

[Senate bill targets corporations that deduct settlement payouts](#)

The Washington Post, Danielle Douglas, 11/7/2013

"Ordinary citizens don't deduct their parking tickets or library fines from their taxes," said Francisco Enriquez, a tax and budget program associate at the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**. "Corporations like JPMorgan shouldn't be able to deduct their settlements for wrongdoing, either."

On Monday, **U.S. PIRG** and **Americans for Tax Fairness** sent a petition signed by 160,000 people to the Justice Department, urging prosecutors to bar JPMorgan from claiming a tax deduction on any part of the pending settlement. The request arrived days after five senators, including Nelson and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), sent a similar letter to Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.

Justice Department and JPMorgan officials declined to comment on the terms of the tentative settlement.

[Letter to the Editor: End worst abuses of offshore tax havens](#)

The Huffington Post, Jamie Woo, **U.S. PIRG**, 11/6/2013

Since when were vacation spots also hot spots for phony corporate headquarters?

Fortunately, Senator Carl Levin (MI), along with co-sponsors Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), Mark Begich (AK) and Jeanne Shaheen (NH), have introduced the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act. This legislation would close the most deplorable loopholes and save taxpayers \$220 billion over ten years, which is more than enough revenue to replace two years of the sequester. This bill not only combats offshore secrecy, but also strengthens corporate transparency and accountability.

U.S. PIRG, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, and the **Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency (FACT) Coalition** sent a letter to Congress today calling on lawmakers to support this common sense bill. It was signed by 538 state and national organizations representing tens of millions of Americans, including small business, labor, faith-based, environmental, and tax justice groups.

When wealthy individuals and large corporations abuse offshore tax havens, Americans and small businesses are forced to shoulder the burden. Every dollar that corporations avoid in

taxes is balanced by average citizens and responsible small businesses paying higher taxes and coping with cuts to public programs, not to mention a higher federal deficit. That just doesn't seem right.

[People Are Starting To Get Really Angry That The Huge JPMorgan Settlement is Tax Deductible](#)

Business Insider, Yahoo Finance, Linette Lopez, 11/6/2013

JP Morgan's potential \$13 billion settlement with the government hasn't been finalized yet, but already politicians and public interest groups are crying foul because up to \$9 billion of the settlement is tax deductible.

That means the bank could write \$3 billion off their corporate tax bill as a business expense, according to **Americans for Tax Fairness** and the **U.S. PIRG**, the federation of state Public Interest Research Groups.

On Monday, **Americans for Tax Fairness** and the **U.S. PIRG** presented Congress with a 160,000 signature petition asking the Justice Department to add a provision to the settlement that would stop this from happening, and a bunch of Congressmen have jumped on board, calling U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to do something.

[Pressure mounts on DOJ over JPMorgan settlement](#)

The Hill, Julian Hattem, 11/4/2013

Critics from both sides of the aisle are raising their voices to make sure taxpayers aren't responsible for footing part of JPMorgan Chase's record \$13 billion penalty.

Unions, lawmakers and public interest groups say the department should prevent the bank, which is the country's largest, from writing off a portion of its settlement as a tax deduction. Letting it deduct billions of dollars would penalize consumers who have already been hurt by the financial crisis, they say.

"As your enforcement actions unfold, it is important that the American people—already victimized once by Wall Street's malfeasance—not be forced to pick up more of the tab," a group of 74 organizations wrote to Attorney General Eric Holder on Monday.

Also on Monday, **Americans for Tax Fairness** and the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** delivered to the department a petition with 160,000 signatures asking it to specifically prevent JPMorgan from claiming a tax deduction on the penalty.

[Will You Have to Pay for JPMorgan's \\$13 Billion Fine?](#)

The Fiscal Times, David Francis, 11/4/2013

Most people think of tax write-offs as a benefit of money given to charity or expenses related to running a small business. Corporations play by a different set of rules. In their world, costs related to financial settlements with the government for wrongdoing can be written off, reducing the real-world effect of the imposed fines and reducing the revenues the government collects.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) and **Americans for Tax Fairness** are trying to make sure the same thing doesn't happen with JPMorgan Chase's expected \$13 billion

settlement with the government. The bank reportedly could claim as much as \$4 billion of that total as a tax deduction unless the terms of the agreement prevent it from doing so.

[Left pushes to trip JPMorgan tax breaks on settlement](#)

The Hill, Peter Schroeder, 11/4/2013

Liberal advocacy groups are mounting pressure on the Justice Department to bar JPMorgan from deducting from the bank's taxes any portion of a broad government settlement in the works.

The reportedly \$13 billion settlement over the bank's mortgage activities before the financial crisis, which is still being hammered out, would be the largest such settlement in U.S. history. But reports that JPMorgan is seeking use up to \$4 billion of the settlement as a tax write-off has led to protests from liberal groups and lawmakers.

On Monday, two groups delivered over 160,000 petitions to the Justice Department calling for barring any potential tax benefit. The groups, **U.S. PIRG** and **Americans for Tax Fairness**, argue it is patently unfair for taxpayers to help subsidize JPMorgan's fines through the tax code.

[Democrats Bill Would Block J.P. Morgan Settlement Deductions](#)

The Wall Street Journal, Alan Zibel, 11/1/2013

Earlier in the week, Messrs. Welch and Gutierrez wrote to J.P. Morgan Chief Executive James Dimon, asking him to "accept full responsibility for the full payment of any fine related to its conduct in this matter" and not take a tax deduction.

Mr. Welch is a J.P. Morgan shareholder, with shares worth between \$1,000 and \$15,000 according to his 2012 financial disclosure statement filed with the House clerk's office. He has traded the stock frequently, he told *The Wall Street Journal* in December 2011, and pared his holdings from 2010, when he owned between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in shares.

Pressure on the issue is building. Next week, two advocacy groups — the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** and **Americans for Tax Fairness** — plan to present 150,000 petitions to the Justice Department arguing that it is unfair for J.P. Morgan to reap a "tax windfall" off the settlement.

[Business as Usual](#)

The New Yorker, George Packer, 10/28/2013

With the extra workload, face-to-face audits have dropped by half since 1992, as have the odds of being convicted for a tax crime. **Frank Clemente**, the director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, says, "When the I.R.S. doesn't have the money to do its job, it's easier for wealthy people and big corporations to cheat the system, especially by hiding profits offshore." For every dollar added to the I.R.S. budget, the agency is able to collect at least seven dollars in revenue, but in times of austerity that money doesn't come in—which means that, in recent years, the Treasury has lost billions in taxes, starving government services and increasing the deficit. Another result, Jenny Brown pointed out, is that wait times at the Ogden call center have risen from ten or fifteen minutes a few years ago to an hour or more today. "By the time they get the I.R.S. on the phone, they're frustrated, and they vent awhile, which takes up more time," she said.

[Senator Levin aims at offshore tax loopholes](#)

The Hill, Bernie Becker, 9/19/2013

Speaking at an event hosted by The Hill and sponsored by **Small Business Majority**, Levin, who has long crusaded against offshore tax loopholes, said his bill takes aim at a number of complex tax tactics that big-time corporations employ, including the shifting of intellectual property rights and the setting up of offshore shell companies.

[Stakeholders: Tax reform doesn't look good](#)

The Hill, Bernie Becker, 9/19/2013

Still, Chuck Marr of the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** said there were plenty of reasons outside the policy sphere that tax reform might stall.

Policymakers and stakeholders, Marr said, could find they prefer to deal with a tax code that they know to be too complex instead of dealing with the unknowns of an overhauled system that could be shorn of many tax breaks.

“People, and particularly lobbyists, are risk averse,” Marr said. “They value what they have.”

[Op-ed: Cutting corporate tax loopholes is not food for kids](#)

The Hill, Deborah Weinstein, **Coalition on Human Needs**, 9/18/2013

Corporate tax dodging goes beyond offshore tax havens. Familiar corporate giants like General Electric, Wells Fargo, and Verizon go years without paying any federal income tax, despite billions of dollars in profits, according to the non-partisan think tank **Citizens for Tax Justice**. Big, profitable corporations pay on average just one-third the official corporate tax rate, the Government Accountability Office has found. And corporate tax receipts as a portion of total federal income is at a 60-year low, the Office of Management and Budget reports.

Members of the House face a profound moral question this week. Will they vote to cut food aid for children, seniors, veterans and the disabled, in the midst of widespread and prolonged unemployment, poverty and economic inequality?

Or will they instead finally turn their attention to the scandal of corporate tax dodging, which destabilizes our public finances, impoverishes our national investments and exacerbates wealth and income gaps? We'll all sleep better if they make the right choice—including millions of children who won't go to bed hungry.

[Tax Reform Advocates Make Their Case At Tax-Evading FedEx](#)

Think Progress, Alan Pyke, 9/9/2013

A legislative listening tour meant to make the case for comprehensive tax reform will stop on Monday at a giant corporation that's paid a 4.2 percent tax rate on over \$9 billion in profits over the past five years.

The tax reform tour, which is the brainchild of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-CA), features a mix of corporate-hosted events and meetings with small businesses. On Monday, the two men will visit the Memphis, Tennessee headquarters of shipping giant FedEx. According to an analysis by **Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ)**, FedEx raked in \$9.3 billion in profits from 2008

to 2012, but paid just \$395 million in federal taxes. That means the company faced an effective tax rate of 4.2 percent – roughly one-eighth the statutory rate reformers insist is crushing the business community.

[Op-Ed: Fulfilling Martin Luther King's dream](#)

Politico, Rep. John Conyers, 8/28/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King's 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

[Op-Ed: Time to end the dangerous shell game](#)

The Hill, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/28/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

But how many other shell companies are used to financially benefit enemy states because U.S. state laws don't require the identity of owners to be disclosed? How many are used by drug traffickers, terrorist cells, tax cheats, pimps, arms traders, fraudsters or other criminals to further illegal activity? How many American dollars are secretly sent to groups most of us would never support?

Because of legalized corporate secrecy, we don't know the answers to these questions. In many states it is easier to incorporate a business than to get a driver's license. Very few states require that the ultimate owner or owners of a business be listed on the incorporation form. Imagine applying for a driver's license without having to reveal your identity. Yet every day in America, businesses are created without any obligation to provide this basic information.

[Coalition Presses Congress to Close Corporate Tax Loopholes](#)

Accounting Web, Jason Bramwell, 8/21/2013

Groups in sixteen states already held or are holding events later this week to demand that Congress close corporate tax loopholes in order to help avoid more deep cuts to essential benefits and services.

The events, which are organized by **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)**, a coalition of more than 325 national and state organizations, are being held in advance of the expected showdown in Congress shortly after Labor Day on budget and tax issues.

"With members of Congress back in their states this August, people are demanding that Congress stop corporate tax dodging and invest in America," **ATF Campaign Manager Frank Clemente** said in a written statement. "Congress faces a clear choice in September when it debates how to keep the government funded: Continue to whack away at critical services that protect our families and that are needed to grow our economy, or close gaping tax loopholes so that big corporations and the rich pay their fair share of taxes."

[Groups Press Members of Congress to End Corporate Tax Breaks](#)

Accounting Today, Michael Cohn, 8/20/2013

Ahead of an expected showdown in Congress over budget and tax issues after lawmakers return from their August recess, groups in 16 states are holding 28 events this week to demand that Congress end corporate tax breaks to avoid deeper cuts to spending programs.

The events are being organized by **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of more than 325 national and state organizations.

"With members of Congress back in their states this August, people are demanding that Congress stop corporate tax dodging and invest in America," said **Frank Clemente, campaign manager of Americans for Tax Fairness**, in a statement. "Congress faces a clear choice in September when it debates how to keep the government funded: continue to whack away at critical services that protect our families and that are needed to grow our economy, or close gaping tax loopholes so that big corporations and the rich pay their fair share of taxes."

[Demand an End to Corporate Tax Dodging](#)

Moyers and Company, 8/20/2013

It's no secret that large corporations are using loopholes to avoid taxes and the federal government is missing out on revenue that could help fund programs on the chopping block in upcoming budget negotiations. Between 2008 and 2012, more than two dozen corporations — Facebook, GE and Verizon among them — managed to avoid paying any income tax at all. As the Sept. 30 federal budget deadline draws near, a coalition of local and national advocacy groups is asking Congress to end corporate tax avoidance. Here's how you can help:

- Find out more about inequities in the corporate and individual tax system through **Americans for Tax Fairness**, one of the groups seeking to put pressure on Congress.
- Protests and actions are planned around the country, some of which are listed on the **National People's Action** website and the **Americans for Tax Fairness** blog. Actions are already planned in New York City, Chicago, Des Moines, Bangor and Los Angeles in the next few days.

[Corporate Tax Reform and S-Corps](#)

Business Finance, Karen Kroll, 8/20/2013

Indeed, the **Main Street Alliance**, a network of small business coalitions, says the study “leads to the conclusion that the goal of tax reform must be to correct unfairness in the U.S. tax code by requiring large corporations to pay their fair share.”

It seems the most effective reform would include all these changes: limiting the deductions that allow the largest companies to pay effective tax rates that are a fraction of their statutory rates, while also looking at the corporate and individual tax structures together, so that those choosing to operate as a pass-through entity aren't penalized.

[What NFIB's study on effective tax rates really tells us about small business priorities for tax reform](#)

The Main Street Alliance, Josh Welter, **Main Street Alliance**, 8/12/2013

On August 7th, the NFIB and the S Corporation Association released a study examining the differences in effective tax rates paid by different kinds of business entities. In releasing the study, NFIB's CEO Dan Danner noted that the study “confirms small businesses currently pay a higher effective tax rate than many large corporations.”

But, the data in NFIB's study tells a story that runs much deeper than that headline. **Main Street Alliance** analysis of NFIB's data clearly leads to the conclusion that the goal of tax reform must be to correct unfairness in the U.S. tax code by requiring large corporations to pay their fair share.

[Op-Ed: Obama's Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business](#)

The Hill, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/2/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president's corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president's plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America's tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

[Small Businesses Want more from Obama's Tax Proposal](#)

Inc.com, Jana Kasperkevic, 8/1/2013

"Small business owners need corporate tax reform to focus on requiring corporations to pay their fair share for economy-boosting investments that bolster consumer demand on Main Street, not lowering corporate rates," Reshonda Young, operations manager at Alpha Express in Waterloo, Iowa and member of the **Main Street Alliance** executive committee.

[Op-Ed: President Offers To Give Republicans The Store, They Demand More](#)

TruthOut, Dave Johnson, **Campaign for America's Future**, 8/1/2013

This week the President offered Republicans a corporate tax reform plan that basically gives them everything they want (before negotiations even begin,) in exchange for please allow We the People to have some jobs and infrastructure and education. The Republican leadership pre-demanded additional tax cuts for the wealthy, while rejecting out-of-hand the idea that government should do anything to help the economy or people. Tea Party Republicans went further, saying taxes are theft and government is socialism, and demanding an end to or at least drastic reductions in government programs that help people, plus the repeal of Obamacare, or they will both shut down the government and force a default when the debt-ceiling is reached.

[Letter to the Editor: Why should Acme Corp. get to pay in taxes less than you?](#)

The Washington Post, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 7/12/13, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Missing from coverage of how little big corporations pay in income taxes ["GAO says profitable U.S. companies paid taxes at a 12.6% rate in 2010," news, July 2] was an examination of how their tax rates stack up against those of middle-class workers. It's that comparison that really drives home the need for tax reform that raises more revenue from big firms that aren't now pulling their weight.

As Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), who requested the Government Accountability Office report, noted, "America's large, profitable corporations are now paying a lower tax rate than our teachers and firefighters." He could have added nurses and construction workers: All four of these vital parts of our society pay roughly twice the federal tax rate that big corporations pay, according to the research organization Citizens for Tax Justice.

Tax policy involves choices. Only by recognizing who's picking up the tab for corporate tax dodging — middle-class workers — can we start to make the right decisions, including closing the loopholes that cost us \$600 billion over 10 years in lost corporate revenue.

[Op-Ed: Popular Movement For Higher Taxes? Now There's a Story](#)

The Huffington Post, Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America's Future**, 7/2/2013

"The American people are on our side," says Rep. Keith Ellison, co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. "The time is now."

Ellison was talking to a small group of writers and activists about higher tax rates for U.S. corporations. Although he was upbeat, Ellison acknowledged that winning those tax increases would be an uphill fight.

That kind of effort can't succeed without widespread public action behind it.

[Op-Ed: 13 Mind-blowing Facts About America's Tax-Dodging Corporations](#)

Alternet, Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America's Future**, 6/30/13

2. Corporate tax rates are near their 60-year low, even though *profits are at a 60-year high!* Need we say more? (via **Americans for Tax Fairness**).

[Apple: Bad Model for 'Tax Reform' – California, New Tax Thinkers, Chart A Better Way](#)
The Huffington Post, Roger Hickey, 5/27/2013

Defeat the corporate plans to "reform" corporate taxes. A political mobilization by citizens is clearly necessary to prevent politicians in the Senate and House from embracing the corporate version of corporate tax reform. And coalitions like **Americans for Tax Fairness** are gearing up to make sure that the only kind of corporate tax reform that passes is the kind that produces more -- not less -- tax revenue for both deficit reduction and for the public investment we all need for job growth and corporations need to be successful in America.

MSNBC's Up With Steve Kornacki- Frank Clemente Appearance, 5/26/13

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

[Part 3](#)

[Part 4](#)

CNBC's Kudlow Report- Frank Clemente Appearance, 5/25/13

[Video here](#)

After Avoiding Billions in Taxes, Apple CEO Seeks More Breaks

People's World, John Wojcik, 5/21/2013

Frank Clemente, the campaign manager for **Americans for Tax Fairness**, another tax justice group, told the same press conference yesterday "Apple is acting like a back-alley thief trying to pick the pockets of American taxpayers."

According to CTJ's executive director Bob McIntyre, the situation is even worse than it looks. He said "often the overseas profits are actually profits made in the U.S. that the company is pretending to have made overseas so that it can avoid taxes."

Senators Accuse Apple of 'Highly Questionable' Billion-Dollar Tax Avoidance Scheme

The Guardian, Dominic Rushe, 5/20/2013

"This is one of the most profitable companies in the world, and it has been acting like a back-alley thief trying to pick the pocket of American taxpayers," said **Frank Clemente**, campaign manager of pressure group **Americans for Tax Fairness**. He said a free repatriation would be "another mugging of the American people".

The committee will report more details of its findings at Tuesday's hearing. The news comes as Apple, Google, Starbucks and others face mounting criticism of their tax avoidance schemes in the UK.

Liberal Group Challenges Norquist to Lobbying Duel

The Hill, Peter Schroeder, 5/13/2013

A liberal tax group on Monday challenged Americans for Tax Reform's Grover Norquist to a lobbying duel on tax reform.

Americans for Tax Fairness offered to compete with Norquist to see who can mount the most visible campaign for overhauling the tax code. "I'm issuing a challenge today to Grover Norquist that we'll generate more comments from everyday Americans pressing for a more fair tax

system — not one favoring the richest two percent and big corporations through special-interest tax loopholes,” said Frank Clemente, the group's campaign manager.

Can Americans for Tax Fairness #BeatGrover?

Politico's Morning Tax 5/13/2013

The liberal tax group is challenging the nation's preeminent anti-tax lobbyist for the hearts and minds of American taxpayers. Americans for Tax Fairness will launch a social media campaign encouraging taxpayers to press Congress for a tax code rewrite that makes "the rich and big corporations to pay their fair share of taxes," according to a release going out later today.

Op-Ed: A Tax Day Plan for Righting the Republic

Al Jazeera, Mattea Kramer, **National Priorities Project**, 4/27/2013

Next on the list: polls show that two-thirds of Americans want the wealthy and corporations to pay more in taxes, and a blockbuster majority of 90 percent wants a simpler tax code. It will not surprise you to learn that the present tax code is a playground for the rich and their talented accountants. **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of 280 organizations (including my employer National Priorities Project), identified 10-year budgetary savings of \$2.8 trillion simply by limiting or eliminating a plethora of high-income and corporate tax loopholes.

So far, by following the people's wisdom, we have managed to invest significant sums in rebuilding education, the country's infrastructure and energy security, while achieving long-term deficit reduction. Still, one of the biggest challenges remains.

Do-Nothing Congress Gives Inertia A Bad Name

The Huffington Post, Bill Moyers and Michael Winship, 4/26/2013

Moyers and Company, Bill Moyers and Michael Winship, 4/26/2013

Mattea Kramer writes that **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of 280 organizations, has "identified 10-year budgetary savings of \$2.8 trillion simply by limiting or eliminating a plethora of high-income and corporate tax loopholes." Congress is busily revising the tax code as we speak but how many of those loopholes and other perks like credits and deductions do you bet will go away?

Not many if the lobbying industry has anything to do with it. The House Ways and Means Committee has eleven working groups considering rewrites and according to the congressional newspaper *The Hill*, they're quietly meeting with lobbyists and other interests - "deep pocketed players" -- all the time. Keep your eye on who's donating to the re-election campaigns of each of those working group members as we move toward the midterms next year.

How Corporations Use Offshore Tax Havens to Avoid Paying Their Taxes

AFL-CIO NOW Blog, Kenneth Quinnell, 4/24/2013

Current laws in the United States allow corporations to use offshore havens to avoid paying their taxes and, if it's up to many in Washington, the problem will only grow larger, particularly if the so-called "territorial" tax system is passed. The details of the use of such tax havens were discussed in a conference call with **Campaign for America's Future (CAF)**, **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)** and **Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ)**.

Current tax laws encourage the offshoring of America's jobs, manufacturing and profit centers, which has led to the hollowing out of the middle class, manufacturing and much of the country, according to Dave Johnson of CAF.

[Download Your Corporate Tax Dodger Trading Cards](#)

People to People Blog, Hillary V Lehr, 4/23/2013

Our friends at Institute for Policy Studies & **Americans for Tax Fairness** have just released 10 *incredible* Tax Dodger Trading Cards alongside their new report: "Corporate Tax Dodgers: 10 Companies and Their Tax Loopholes." Share these eye-catching cards, and let's work together to make corporate tax dodgers a 'limited edition.'

[Reform Leaders Explain Moves to End Corporate Tax Evasion](#)

Campaign for America's Future Blog, Richard Long, 4/23/2013

Corporations are shifting more of their money overseas to avoid the taxman in the U.S. and pursuing territorial tax legislation in Congress that would further enshrine that tax evasion into law. At a conference call Monday for progressive writers hosted by the Campaign for America's Future's Dave Johnson, leaders of Center for Tax Justice and the **Americans for Tax Fairness** explained the territorial tax proposal and the harm tax havens do to the middle-class economy.

[Op-Ed: Tax havens unfair to small businesses](#)

The Washington Post, Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council**. 4/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

The latest deficit reduction plan offered by Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson supports the interests of big business at the expense of the United States small businesses by calling for adoption of a territorial tax system. In two recent polls, small-business owners have soundly rejected making abuse of offshore tax havens by multinational organizations legal and permanent.

A March poll sponsored by the **American Sustainable Business Council** and **Main Street Alliance** found that 85 percent of those surveyed, including 67 percent of Republican small-business owners, opposed a territorial tax system that would exempt foreign profits from U.S. taxes.

[Corporate Tax Dodgers: 10 Companies and Their Tax Loopholes](#)

Common Dreams, Sarah Anderson, Scott Klinger, and Javier Rojo, **American Sustainable Business Council**, 4/17/2013

As the budget battles in Washington continue, corporations have stepped into the fray with some of the most aggressive lobbying we've seen in years – calling for cuts to corporate tax rates, a widening of offshore tax loopholes that already cost the U.S. Treasury \$90 billion a year, and cuts to government services and benefits, including Social Security and Medicare.

In making their case, corporate executives decry the U.S.'s 35% corporate tax rate claiming it is the highest in the world and makes their businesses uncompetitive globally. The evidence suggests otherwise.

[Op-Ed: Wanna Stop the Cuts? Let's Talk Corporations](#)

Crooks and Liars, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 4/15/2013

While there is good reason for progressives to fight like hell to protect cuts to Social Security, Medicare and other vital programs following the release of President Obama's budget, we always seem to find ourselves on defense. It's time to go on offense to protect vital services and benefits and to promote a more just economy by making sure that big corporations and the richest 2 percent pay their fair share in taxes.

For the past two weeks, **Americans for Tax Fairness** – a coalition representing more than 280 national and state groups co-chaired by the Center for American Progress, AFSCME and National People's Action – has been stepping up pressure on Congress to raise \$ 1 trillion, in part by closing corporate tax loopholes. We've been exposing a "Corporate Tax Dodger of the Day" leading into April 15 -- the always stressful "Tax Day."

[A tax day guest post from Frank Clemente](#)

Down with Tyranny, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 4/15,2013

For the past two weeks, Americans for Tax Fairness-- a coalition representing more than 280 national and state groups co-chaired by the Center for American Progress, AFSCME and National People's Action-- has been stepping up pressure on Congress to raise \$ 1 trillion, in part by closing corporate tax loopholes. We've been exposing a "Corporate Tax Dodger of the Day" leading into April 15-- the always stressful "Tax Day."

It's not always the preferred topic-- raising taxes-- but let's face it: millions of working families pay more in taxes some years, or pay a much higher income tax rate, than some of the biggest and most profitable corporations in America pay. Think ExxonMobil, General Electric, FedEx, Verizon, Wells Fargo and more. That's wrong and I know I'm talking to folks who agree.

[Taxes for me but not for thee](#)

Hullabaloo, 4/15/2013

Here's a guest post from **Americans for Tax Fairness**:

While there is good reason for progressives to fight like hell to protect cuts to Social Security, Medicare and other vital programs following the release of President Obama's budget, we always seem to find ourselves on defense. It's time to go on offense to protect vital services and benefits and to promote a more just economy by making sure that big corporations and the richest 2 percent pay their fair share in taxes.

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[Tax Day Repurposed to "Illuminate" Corporate Tax Evaders](#)

PR Watch, Harriet Rowan, 4/15/2013

With President Obama fielding cynical cuts to Social Security to appease the Fix the Debt crowd and reach a budget deal, groups are teaming up to point out that there would be a lot less

concern about the budget deficit if corporate America did what average Americans have to do and actually pay taxes. Taking advantage of loopholes, tricks and deductions, many U.S. companies pay far below the required 35% tax rate, and some, like General Electric have a negative tax rate. New web resources are shining a light on the firms and individuals that manipulate the U.S. tax system to their benefit, putting more of the burden on America's middle class.

A coalition of groups have launched the new website TaxEvaders.net as part of a week of action aimed at bringing attention to an estimated \$100 billion per year that U.S. corporations are avoiding in taxes. The website was launched with help and research from the Citizen Engagement Lab, The Other 98%, US Uncut, The Yes Lab, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, U.S. Public Research Interest Group, Occupy Wall St, and the Wisconsin-founded Overpass Light Brigade.

[Op-Ed: The Upside of Taxes](#)

The Huffington Post, Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America's Future**, 4/14/2013

General Electric. Boeing. Corning. Wells Fargo. They're among the many corporations that have gone at least one or more years without paying any Federal taxes. Together they made \$205 billion in pre-tax profits and paid a negative rate over a four-year period.

Americans for Tax Fairness has even created "Corporate Tax Dodger" trading cards.

[A Tax Day Plan for Righting the Republic](#)

Moyers and Company, Mattea Kramer, **National Priorities Project**, 4/13/2013

[Why More Affluent Americans Pay No Taxes](#)

The Fiscal Times, Steve Yoder, 4/11/2013

These high-income Americans aren't the only ones not paying income tax, Williams notes. It's also why 46.4 percent of citizens paid no taxes in 2011, as the center reported (a figure famously rounded up to 47 percent during last year's presidential race), which includes low-income families who qualify for the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, and seniors living off Social Security.

Frank Clemente of the advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness** doesn't think high-income earners belong in this group. "There are so many loopholes both on the individual side and the corporate side that only wealthy people can take advantage of...", he says. "This is what you end up with, people who are paying a fraction of what the marginal tax rate is for their income level."

[A Tax Day Plan for Righting the Republic](#)

The Huffington Post, Mattea Kramer, **National Priorities Project**, 4/11/2013

[At the Old Ball Game: Check Out the Corporate Tax Dodger Baseball League](#)

AFL-CIO NOW Blog, 4/7/2013

Leading up to Tax Day, April 15, **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)** is calling attention to 10 corporations that are dodging paying their fair share of taxes. We are releasing a set of Corporate Tax Dodger Baseball Cards because these companies are as skilled as baseball pros. Be sure to collect all 10 and see what makes these companies professional tax dodgers.

Alabama Media Hits

[Op-ed Big businesses should pay fair share](#)

Montgomery Advertiser, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Arkansas Media Hits

[Arkansas Politics Pastor/judge urges Tim Griffin to reopen federal government](#)

Arkansas Times, Max Brantley, 10/15/2013

Supporters of **Americans for Tax Fairness** had announced earlier that they would visit Griffin's office on University at noon today to deliver a letter calling for him to vote to end the government shut down, lift the debt ceiling, end the automatic spending cuts and raise revenue by closing corporate tax loopholes. Several unions, clergy and others participated.

[Fairer Taxes on Wealthy, Corporations Will End Budget Crisis](#)

The Pine Bluff Commercial, Irene Holcomb, **Arkansas Community Organizing**, 4/30/2013

Over the years, I've seen the Washington budget debate from a lot of angles — as a small business owner, public school teacher and local government official — and any way you look at it, we need more tax revenue if we're ever going to reduce the deficit and make new investments to grow our economy.

Common sense tells me the right place to get that revenue is from wealthy individuals and large corporations. Once they're paying their fair share, we can finally get beyond all these federal budget crises and move on to the important business of reviving our economy and getting everyone back to work.

[The Evening Line](#)

Arkansas Times, Max Brantley, 4/5/2013

TAX DODGER EXXON MOBIL: Mad yet about the nasty pipeline oil spill in Mayflower? Mad yet that Exxon is controlling access to the scene, including airways? Mad that Exxon apparently isn't telling the whole truth about spread of oil to Lake Conway waters? Mad that this gunk isn't oil for purposes of being taxed to help finance oil spill cleanup funds of the federal government? Maybe it might make you mad to read an **Americans for Tax Fairness** fact sheet on the incredible tax giveaways enjoyed by Exxon Mobil, maybe the richest corporation in the world.

California Media Hits

[Lawmakers want to outlaw tax deductings for government settlements](#)

The Los Angeles Times, Jim Puzzanghera, 11/6/2013

A report in January by the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** found that even though the law is clear that punitive fines and penalties issued by government agencies are not tax deductible, settlements often are not clear on how much of the payment amount is punitive.

U.S. PIRG and Americans for Tax Fairness delivered a petition with 160,000 signatures to the Justice Department on Monday calling for language in any JPMorgan settlement prohibiting a tax write-off for the penalties.

[Op-Ed: Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care](#)

Santa Monica Daily Press, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 11/1/2013

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a \$29-billion tax break for one of the country's more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn't get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

It is also a proposal they are likely to champion during the ongoing budget debate. When Congress passed the law establishing the Affordable Care Act in 2010, it included mechanisms to help pay for new benefits, like ending denial of services because of pre-existing conditions and extending healthcare to previously uninsured Americans. Among these mechanisms was a 2.3 percent excise tax on medical devices ranging from surgical gloves to MRI machines. The tax would raise \$29 billion over 10 years.

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Santa Barbara News-Press, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

La Prensa San Diego, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies](#)

La Prensa San Diego, Rep. John Conyers, 9/6/2013

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

City Terrace Comet, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

East Los Angeles Brooklyn-Belvedere Comet, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

East Los Angeles Brooklyn-Belvedere Comet, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

Monterey Park Comet, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Wyvernwood Chronicle, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Commerce Comet, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Montebello Comet, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Northeast Sun, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Eastside Sun, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Mexican American Sun, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

Bell Gardens Sun, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Vernon Sun, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

Eastern Group Publications, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Protesters Rally Over Corporate Tax Dodgers](#)

Santa Monica Daily Press, Illeana Najarro, 8/21/2013

On Aug. 20 the Associated Press reported that four demonstrators from the National People's Action group were arrested outside of the Verizon headquarters building where they were hoping to call out the company's alleged frauds and bring attention to the need for Congress to act in favor of America's poor and middle class rather than large corporations.

[Verizon Wireless Protest in Santa Monica Petitions 4 Verizon to Pay its Fair Share](#)

Wireless and Mobile News, Lynn Walford, 8/21/2013

Protesters tried to deliver a petition with thousands of signatures demanding that Verizon leave the "Fix The Debt" coalition and pay their fair share of taxes to invest in vital community programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

[Protestors Rally at Apple's Developers Conference](#)

KQED, 6/13/2013

Demonstrators protested today outside the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco. The crowd chanted "Bad Apple," and called on the tech giant to pay its fair share of taxes.

Apple avoided paying nine billion dollars in federal taxes last year by keeping money overseas.

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Eastern Group Publications, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Northeast Sun, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

La Persona San Diego, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/10/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Eastern Los Angeles Brooklyn-Belvedere Pilot, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Vernon Sun, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

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Bell Gardens Sun, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Taxes: Want to Stop the Cuts? Let's Talk Corporations](#)

City Watch LA, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 4/16/2013

HAPPY TAX DAY, Y'ALL - While there is good reason for progressives to fight like hell to protect cuts to Social Security, Medicare and other vital programs following the release of President Obama's budget, we always seem to find ourselves on defense. It's time to go on offense to protect vital services and benefits and to promote a more just economy by making sure that big corporations and the richest 2 percent pay their fair share in taxes.

For the past two weeks, **Americans for Tax Fairness** – a coalition representing more than 280 national and state groups co-chaired by the Center for American Progress, AFSCME and National People's Action – has been stepping up pressure on Congress to raise \$ 1 trillion, in part by closing corporate tax loopholes. We've been exposing a "Corporate Tax Dodger of the Day" leading into April 15 -- the always stressful "Tax Day."

Connecticut Media Hits

[Small Business Saturday, A Nationwide Effort Facing Headwinds](#)

Hartford Courant, Dan Haar, 11/29/2013

Then there's the outright backlash against American Express, which, merchants said, typically charges them a higher percentage rate in its "swipe fees" than Visa and MasterCard. On Tuesday, the **Main Street Alliance** — an anti-corporate small business group that formed in 2008 — attacked what it called the "hypocrisy" of American Express coming up with this "marketing invention.

[Editorial: Congress should close tax loopholes on executive compensation](#)

New Haven Register, Editorial Board, 8/8/2013

When it returns from recess next month, Congress should pass common-sense legislation, cosponsored by U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Jack Reed, D-R.I., that would limit the tax deductions large public corporations can claim on compensation of executives.

The two New England Democrats proposed the bill, the Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonus Act, last week, just before Congress broke for its summer recess.

It aims to close massive loopholes in a 1993 bill that limited deductibility on certain executives' pay up to \$1 million, with exceptions for so-called performance-based compensation. The bill, which President Bill Clinton championed on the campaign trail in the 1992 election, was well-intentioned, but has been a near-complete flop because of corporations' successful efforts to find work-around.

Colorado Media Hits

[Letter to the Editor: A western approach to deficit reduction](#)

Cortez Sentinel, Dan Gibbs and Tim Much, Summit County commissioner and Clear Creek County Commissioner, 4/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

We can raise even more money by making sure giant corporations pay their fair share. Government reports reveal that the portion of federal revenue coming from corporate taxes has fallen by three-quarters over the past 60 years, and that in recent years corporations have paid taxes at only about two-thirds the statutory rate. (In 2011 it was only one-third the stated rate). Studies co-authored by the respect **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** consistently find household names like General Electric and Wells Fargo frequently get away with paying no federal taxes at all.

Close the principal loophole that makes offshore tax dodging possible, and the joint tax committee of Congress estimates we'd raise nearly \$600 billion over 10 years.

Delaware Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Close tax loopholes; Don't cut Social Security](#)

Delaware State News, Karen Marvel, Retired Social Security Administration District Manager, 12/13/2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

[Op-Ed: Delaware families want more tax fairness](#)

The Wilmington News-Journal, Ezra Temko, **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**, 12/10/2013

Meanwhile, many big corporations have become expert at avoiding their responsibilities. Whereas 60 years ago corporate taxes represented one-third of all federal income, now corporations contribute only 10 percent of federal receipts. In several recent years, big, profitable companies like Boeing, Wells Fargo and General Electric have avoided paying any federal taxes at all – some even got refunds. Our own DuPont has been a leading tax dodger. While Washington continues to be divided about what to do regarding comprehensive tax reform, the sequester cuts continue to impact our communities. But Washington dysfunction should not stand in the way of moderate common-sense reforms like the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act (S. 1533).

[Op-Ed: End persistent poverty by ending corporate tax dodging](#)

The Wilmington News-Journal, Darlene Battle, **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**, 10/23/2013

Delaware families are barely treading water in the wake of the Great Recession—and some are drowning. Given the grim picture painted by the latest poverty and income statistics released this week by the Census Bureau, it's essential that we maintain safety net programs and make the kind of public investments that spur economic growth. But that's only possible if corporations and the wealthy start to once again pay their fair share of taxes.

[Letter to the Editor: Editorial's warning applies to sequester cuts as well](#)

Delaware Online, Susan Meany, October 10, 2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

This summer the Congressional Budget Office estimated that canceling the 10-year austerity measure would add 900,000 to our economy. Of course, they also noted a downside - greater federal debt. The trick would be to end the sequester cuts and still decrease the federal deficit through increased revenue from fairer taxes. One first step to do this would be to pass the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act, which would raise \$220 billion to replace budget sequester cuts and eliminate many tax incentives for U.S. companies to move jobs and operations offshore.

[Stop corporations from controlling our government](#)

Delaware Online, Amy Shay, October 10, 2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

If wealthy Americans and corporations paid their fair share of taxes, we would have the revenue to rebuild our roads, bridges, and neighborhoods, to move to clean, renewable energy, and to support businesses that innovate and invest in our future. A good start would be to make the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act law. This bill would close tax loopholes that encourage U.S.

corporations to move jobs, profits and operations offshore and help ensure that they pay their fair share of taxes.

[Letter to the Editor: House Republicans pursue the wrong legislative course](#)

Delaware Online, Katherine Ware, **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**, 10/6/2013

An Oct. 2 headline was “Some low-income families, federal workers in state first to feel the pain [of the federal government shutdown].” These workers were also the first to feel the pain from the sequester cuts. It’s time for Congress to get their priorities right and stop harming our economy and people’s lives. The House Republicans need to end the government shutdown and stop attempting to obstruct implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

They also need to stop obstructing policies that will help our economy and lift up working America – like raising revenue from closing corporate tax loopholes and using that money to end the sequester and invest in our future. I hope the Senate stands strong against House obstruction. I also hope they pass Sen. Levin’s “Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act,” which would end tax breaks for sending jobs overseas and help end the sequester. I’d like to see what the House Republicans come up with to defend their opposition to that.

[Letter to the Editor: We need to encourage investments in our country](#)

Delaware Online, Katherine Caudle, **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**, 10/7/2013

It concerns me that the Tea Party congressmen responsible for our government shut down are not the ones who are going to suffer as a result. They still get paid and they're certainly not the people who rely on programs like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Over the last three years, Congress has cut about \$1 trillion from benefits and services that protect our families and grow our economy. Deep cuts have ranged from school funding to Head Start, investments in new medical cures to finding clean energy sources, and meals for seniors to veterans' mental health care.

We need to stop these cuts and instead invest in our country. Tea Party Congressmen say our country is broke and has no money, but we continue to find money to subsidize corporations through our tax code. For example, Apple, Inc., channels tens of billions of dollars of profits into overseas dummy corporations. There is a box on an IRS form they can check and poof - the profits they made from these subsidiaries simply disappears and is not taxed. I hope Sen. Tom Carper and Sen. Chris Coons sign on to the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act. It would prohibit corporations from participating in some of the most egregious tax dodging practices like the one mentioned above and would raise \$220 billion over the next decade that could stop the continued cuts to working families and the middle class.

[Op-Ed: What SNAP cuts and corporate gravy train have in common](#)

Delaware Online, Craig Stack, October 1, 2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

Would you take food from hungry children to save the government money while at the same time shielding big corporations from paying their fair of taxes? That's what the U.S. House of Representatives tried to do by voting to cut kids from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program while preserving huge tax loopholes for multinational corporations. I appreciate Congressman John Carney's vote against this measure and hope the U.S. Senate can put a stop to this nonsense.

[Op-Ed: Tax fairness is peachy](#)

Middle Town Transcript, Ezra Temko, **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**, September 3, 2013

Community members from **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**, **SEIU 32BJ**, and other members of the Americans for Tax Fairness coalition marched in the Middletown Peach Festival, declaring, "Public Investment is Peachy" and "Corporate Tax Dodging is the Pits."

[Op-Ed: Tax reform should help working families](#)

Delaware Online, Gabe Morgan, August 20, 2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

[Tax Expert Speaks to Advocacy Group](#)

Delaware Cape Gazette, Kara Netback, 8/7/2013

Fortune 500 companies are using loopholes to legally avoid paying taxes to Delaware and the federal government, a tax expert says.

Matt Gardner, executive director of the **Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy** spoke to a group of about 15 people at an Americans for Democratic Action meeting, July 26, at Bethany Blues in Lewes.

Gardner said he researches tax loopholes that allow corporations, including DuPont, to avoid paying any taxes to the federal or state government. "We need revenue-raising tax reform," Gardner said. "It has to focus on the corporate side."

[Blog Post: Corporations exploit tax system, hurt working people](#)

Delaware Online, Jerry Northington, 7/12/2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

The News Journal reported on July 4 that furloughs for more than 1,400 Delaware civilians who work for the military began on July 7. This offends me, as a veteran and as a working taxpayer. While Delawareans who serve our country are forced to take unwanted time off, we should stop and think about all the corporations who are taking time off from paying their fair share of income taxes.

With a 20 percent cut in pay, some children will not be able to go on their family summer vacation. Some families will not be able to make important payments, such as rent. The ripple effect will run through the Delaware economy over the next few weeks as we all begin to feel the loss of available spending money in our businesses.

This is the latest illustration of who pays for corporate tax dodging. These furloughs are not necessary! Corporations like Apple, Microsoft and Google along with many others employ loopholes in the American tax system and in that of other nations around the globe to avoid paying taxes. Americans are now feeling the hurt by paying more than their fair share to pick up the slack for lost revenue from these corporate tax dodgers.

It is time to demand that corporations pay their fair share. Congress must put an end to the current situation which allows massive corporations to earn billions and pay nothing at all.

[Blog Post: Corporations get breaks at workers' expense](#)

Delaware Online, Jenna Fenstermacher, 7/10/2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

I couldn't agree more with a recent writer that "We'd all benefit from a competitive tax rate." Right now the losers in tax policy are working families and the middle class, and domestic small businesses. According to a study by the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**, the federal government loses approximately \$150 billion in revenue each year due to offshore accounting schemes by wealthy investors and multinational corporations. So who pays? That \$150 billion is the equivalent of each American taxpayer paying an additional \$1,026. Similarly, small businesses would each need to pay an additional \$3,067 in taxes to shoulder the burden of multinational corporate tax dodging.

[Blog Post: Bring revenue from overseas tax loopholes home](#)

Delaware Online, Brian Boyle, 7/6/2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

If you marched down Main Street this past Fourth of July, you didn't pass any shops with money stashed in overseas tax havens. Unlike their huge corporate counterparts, small and mid-sized domestic businesses can't play foreign accounting tricks. They need their cash to meet payroll, pay local suppliers, pay off loans from the local bank, and fulfill their tax obligations.

When multinational corporations ship profits and jobs overseas to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, they deprive our communities of revenue needed to invest in schools, roads, research and public safety. They also receive an unfair advantage over their domestic competitors, who patriotically pay their taxes each year.

There's legislation in Congress that would close overseas corporate tax loopholes, raising \$600 billion over the next decade for hometown investment and leveling the playing field for small business. Find your member of Congress at the parade this year and urge a vote for corporate tax reform.

[Blog Post: Be patriotic by supporting corporate tax reform](#)

Delaware Online, Mary Crowley, 7/3/2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

Love of country is about more than flag pins and fireworks. Look around your community this Fourth of July holiday and spot all the ways we could demonstrate our love with adequate public investment, from better paved roads to better served seniors and kids.

We could afford those investments if huge corporations paid their fair share of taxes, instead of hiding profits and shipping jobs overseas. Many years, household names like General Electric and Verizon use fancy accounting tricks to pay zero federal income taxes. Apple, Inc., has \$102 billion in profits stashed overseas, essentially untaxed.

Even as Congress has cut community services like Head Start and Meals on Wheels in the name of fiscal austerity, corporate America has not contributed one dime to deficit reduction. Let's support corporate tax reform legislation that would raise \$600 billion over the next decade and allow us to show how much we love our country.

[Letter to the Editor: Is our government beholden to monied interests?](#)

Delaware Online, Mike Matthews, June 8, 2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

I agree with your editorial that "America's tax system sorely needs fixing." Corporate tax dodging is a huge problem and has definite consequences for our community. I'm a teacher in Delaware and am appalled that Congress has enacted sequester cuts that are reducing programs, services and staff in our public school.

[Panel Celebrates JFK's Legacy, Challenges President Obama's Budget Proposal](#)

Delaware Way, Nancy Willing, 5/30/2013

Forty Delawareans gathered to hear Sha Na Na's Bowzer and support an event celebrating President John F. Kennedy's legacy and supporting cuts to corporate tax loopholes over cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

[Tomorrow's Panel To Challenge Obama's Budget Proposal](#)

Delaware Way, Nancy Willing, 5/28/2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

"Corporate income non-patriation and tax manipulation is a problem that I've seen with my own eyes," said Andrew Groff. "Rather than cutting social services, Congress should put a stop to accounting tricks that move profits to offshore tax havens, cut subsidies to the richest corporations on the planet, and end the needless and futile resource wars in the near east."

Delaware ADA and NCPSSM are members of the national coalition **Americans for Tax Fairness**. Additional co-sponsors include DSEA, AFSCME Council 81, Delaware NOW, Delaware NAACP, Delaware DBTU, and SEIU 32BJ.

[Upcoming Events: Happy Birthday, Mr. President](#)

Delaware Liberal, 5/23/2013

This sounds like a cool panel to check out. The **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action** (ADA) and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare (NCPSSM) are co-hosting an event on the former President's birthday as a tribute to President John F. Kennedy, who strengthened Social Security, fought for the establishment of Medicare, and advocated for closing the same corporate tax loopholes that corporations still abuse to this day. The speakers will be Wilmington Mayor Dennis P. Williams, retired Delaware Social Security executive Tom Tobin, NCPSSM Grassroots National Director Ernie Powell, and businessman Andrew Groff, and Jon "Bowzer" Bauman, former lead singer of the famous Sha Na Na, will sing Happy Birthday to the President, hopefully not in the Marilyn Monroe style.

[Rally Participants Call for Tax Reform, End of "Tax Dodging"](#)

WDEL 1150 AM, Tom Lehman, 4/16/2013

Demonstrators call for politicians in Washington to create a tax system that eliminates loopholes and requires big corporations to start paying more.

More than two-dozen demonstrators outside the Newark Post Office Monday afternoon amid a backdrop of many last-minute tax return filers. Ezra Temko, a former Newark City Councilman

and coordinator with **Americans for Democratic Action**, says those participating in the rally hoped to draw attention to what they say is an unfair system.

[Dozens Rally for 'Fair' Tax Policy](#)

Newark Post Online, Al Kemp, 4/16/2013, Secured by Delaware Americans for Democratic Action

Chanting “corporate greed has got to go!” and other populist slogans, dozens of angry Delawareans staked their claim to the corner of Library Avenue and Ogletown Road on Monday afternoon, demanding to know “who pays.”

Last-minute tax filers honked in support of the rally, organized by the local chapter of **Americans for Democratic Action**. The rally was co-sponsored by the Delaware AFL-CIO and the Delaware State Education Association.

[Group Bashes Business Tax Breaks](#)

Delaware Online, 4/16/2013

People hold a rally Monday to question “Who Pays?” when corporations and the wealthy avoid their fair share of taxes. The event is organized by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)** and co-sponsored by half a dozen other local groups. The gathering at the Newark Post Office coincided with the federal income tax deadline.

[Tax Day Protest Draws Crowd to Post Office](#)

Delaware Way, 4/16/2013

NEWARK – Thirty outraged Delaware taxpayers gathered at the Newark Post Office on the deadline for mailing last-minute returns, demanding that huge corporations display the same patriotism as the middle-class families rushing to file their taxes by paying their fair share. The demonstration was organized by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)** and co-sponsored by over half a dozen other local groups.

“Who Pays?” demanded a big sign held aloft by the protestors, who brandished dozens of other signs as well demanding a fair tax system where the wealthy and well-connected pay what they should. The passing rush-hour traffic returned a chorus of supportive honks.

[Op-Ed: Who Pays for Government When the Wealthy Don't?](#)

Delaware Online, John Kowalko, Delaware State Representative, 4/11/2013, Secured by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**

With Tax Day almost here, it's a good time to consider a serious question.

Who actually “pays” taxes? Not just who pays taxes, but who “pays” when we don't collect taxes? Despite what some politicians might tell you, when we don't collect enough revenue, there are always consequences, fewer public services, more public debt or some combination of the two.

Florida Media Hits

[Budget deal falls short](#)

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Thomas Tryon, Opinion Editor, 12/8/2013

Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a national organization that espouses progressive taxation, told me Friday that the terms of the deal ignore the will of the people as expressed in the Hart Research Associates poll. (Hart surveys for left-leaning politicians but also some of America's largest corporations and media companies ranging from the Post to the Wall Street Journal.)

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

Panama City News Herald, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/8/2013, Syndicated for American Forum

[Op-Ed: Big Corporations, Wealthy Need to Pay Their Fair Share](#)

Tampa Tribune, Karl Nurse, St. Petersburg City Council, 6/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

While ideologues in Washington fight over pet economic theories, small business owners and community political leaders have to deal with the day-to-day consequences of misguided federal budget policy. As a representative of both groups – as well as someone personally impacted by increased taxes on high incomes – I urge Congress to end the bickering, continue deficit reduction, and most importantly invest in our economy and create jobs by requiring big corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share of taxes

[Tax Resistance and A Call for Corporations and the Wealthy to Pay Their Fair Share](#)

WMNF 88.5 FM, 4/15/2013, Secured by **PICO United Florida**

(Audio)

[Tax Day Protests in Tampa and St. Pete Blast Wealthy Corporations that Evade Taxes](#)

WMNF 88.5 FM, 4/15/2013, Secured by **PICO United Florida**

Wealthy corporations have access to tax loopholes that many individuals and small businesses can't get. Tax Day protests on both sides of the bay this morning had activists lashing out at what they call tax evaders.

About a dozen activists in Tampa were up before the sun to light up the U.S. 301 overpass over I-4. Back-lit posters spelled out the words 'U paid more tax\$ than Verizon'.

[Op-Ed: Are We Maxed Out on Taxes?](#)

Florida Voices, Kevin King, Political Director, **PICO United Florida**, 4/8/2013

As the annual April 15 income tax deadline approaches, millions of taxpayers are begrudgingly preparing their tax returns to send off to the IRS. Many are convinced they are paying too much and confused about just what their hard-earned cash is paying for once it's pooled with millions of other contributions in the national coffers.

While taxes may never be popular, the benefits and services that they pay for are, since most of these are essential benefits and services that families, seniors and children depend on every

day. These include Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, science and medical research, education, and national security. All enjoy very broad and consistent public support. Americans might complain about paying taxes, but most of us couldn't imagine living in a country without roads, bridges, public schools and law enforcement nor do we want our elderly neighbors living in poverty, our kids growing up without learning how to read or our bridges falling down around us.

Georgia Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Atlanta Inquirer, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Obama's Tax Plan A Bad Bargain For Small Business](#)

Atlanta Inquirer, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/31/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Illinois Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Southtown Star, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/20/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Corporate Tax Disclosure – End to Legalized Bribery or Hostile Action?](#)

The Chicago Grid, Grid Business, 9/27/2013

David Borris, who owns Hell's Kitchen Catering in Northbrook and serves on the **Main Street Alliance**, a small-business advocacy group, doesn't want corporations participating in what he calls a race to the bottom by shifting funds out of Illinois to offshore tax havens. "If that's the business we want, we're heading to Potterville," Borris says, calling tax concessions given to individual corporations under threat of departure "practically legalized bribery." "If some businesses choose not to locate here because they want to rape the economy, maybe we don't want them here."

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's dream with fair tax, spending policies](#)

The News Gazette, Rep. John Conyers, 9/8/2013

[Anti-Austerity Campaign Demands Shutdown of Corporate Tax Dodging](#)

Common Dreams, Jacob Swenson, 8/23/2013

Yesterday, I joined Chicagoans who, along with grassroots activist in 20 cities around the country, are responding to Krugman's question by taking to the streets as part of **National People Action's** #CEOSummer campaign.

"As we approach another budget showdown in Washington DC, the answer is not shutting down the government and cutting funds to schools, nutrition, housing, and other essential services," said George Goehl, Executive Director of **National People's Action**. "The answer is shutting down corporate tax dodging."

Kristina Tendilla, a leader at Benton House community center and **S.O.U.L. (Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation)**, spoke about the effect budget cuts have on her community in the Bridgeport neighborhood.

[**Blog Post: Chicagoans ‘Out’ General Electric for Dodging Taxes, Demand Sen. Durbin Close Loopholes**](#)

Progress Illinois, Ellyn Fortino, 8/22/2013

Chicagoans from across the city rallied downtown Thursday afternoon to “out” General Electric as a corporate tax dodger and to call upon U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) to take charge and make corporations pay their fair share.

Chicago is one of 10 cities taking part in the **National People's Action** campaign this week meant to shine a light on various corporate tax dodgers across the county. According to the protestors, GE received \$8.4 billion in federal tax breaks between 2008 and 2010.

“Everyday people are suffering while corporate taxes are at historic lows, even though corporate profits are at an all-time high,” said Toby Chow, a leader with **IIRON**.

[**GE hit on “tax dodging,” Durbin on budget cuts**](#)

News Tips, 8/21/2013

Protestors will deliver a giant “cease and desist” letter calling on GE to “stop dodging taxes while lobbying for cuts to Social Security” at GE’s Chicago headquarters, 500 W. Monroe, at 12 noon on Thursday, August 22. They will demonstrate outside Durbin’s office at 230 S. Dearborn at 12:40 p.m.

It’s part of a national week of action “outing” corporate tax dodgers across the country by Chicago-based **National Peoples Action**.

From 2002 to 2012, GE paid \$2.1 billion in federal income taxes while earning \$88 billion in profits — a tax rate of 2.4 percent, far below the official rate of 35 percent — **according to Americans for Tax Fairness**.

[**Op-Ed: Obama’s tax plan bad bargain for small biz**](#)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[**Op-Ed: Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](#)

Southwest News-Herald, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[**Blog Post: Tax Fairness Advocates Call for an End to Corporate Tax Deferral**](#)

Progress Illinois, Ellyn Fortino, 4/24/2013

It's time for the public to "tap into their anger" and rally against tax loopholes that allow big U.S. corporations to dodge their fair share of American taxes by stashing profits in offshore havens, said leaders from Citizens for Tax Justice and **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

Congress is currently entertaining a number of tax reform proposals that seek to lower corporate taxes and provide incentives for sending jobs and profit centers offshore, putting billions of tax dollars at stake over a 10-year period, Frank Clemente, campaign manager of Americans for Tax Fairness, said on a conference call with reporters.

[Op-Ed: Small Biz opposes Large Corporations' Tax Shelter](#)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald (Oak Lawn-Burbank), Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council**, 4/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Accounts of giant businesses like Boeing, General Electric, Pfizer, Microsoft and Honeywell International using offshore tax loopholes to dramatically lower their taxes " often to zero " are all too common. U.S. Public Interest Research Group just released report showing that each of America's small businesses on average picks up the tab for \$3,067 to cover the costs of tax avoidance by U.S multinational corporations playing the offshore profit-shifting game.

It is clear to small business owners that the ability of these large corporations to minimize their tax liability through offshore tax loopholes is contributing to our nation's budget problems and is harmful to the small business community. This awareness of multinationals shirking their tax responsibility has resulted in a bipartisan small-business owner consensus on the need of large, multinational corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

Indiana Media Hits

[Op-Ed: This Christmas, help the unemployed](#)

Greensburg Daily News, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

When holiday shoppers make a bad choice, the worst result may be an ugly sweater.

But Congress recently made a bad choice that will ruin the holidays for over a million families — and will spoil the coming new year for millions more.

That was the decision — imposed by conservatives — not to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless, while maintaining huge tax loopholes for wealthy Wall Streeters and multinational corporations. Congress can reverse its choice in early January, but the clock is ticking.

[Letter to the Editor: SBCSC has resources to deal with 'gap'](#)

South Bend Tribune, Charles Mumaw, 11/13/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

The Stop Tax Havens Abuse Act, introduced by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., will close tax loopholes that encourage moving jobs overseas and will make small businesses more competitive. This bill offers a way to reduce the deficit while growing our economy. Donnelly has demonstrated his willingness to represent the working class and should continue his commitment to the American people by sponsoring the Levin bill.

[Letter to the Editor: Agreement needed in December to avert another fiasco](#)

The Elkhart Truth, Charles Mumaw, 11/13/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

[Letter to the Editor: Stutzman's chance for redemption](#)

Journal Gazette, Jeremy Schrock, 11/13/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

Government shutdowns would be unnecessary if we raised the revenue we need from corporations and the wealthy. There's a bill in Congress right now, the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act, that would raise \$220 billion over the next decade by closing overseas corporate tax loopholes that encourage corporations to hide profits and ship jobs overseas.

If Stutzman wants to prove he's in touch with ordinary people in his district and around the country, he should endorse the Stop Tax Havens Abuse Act.

[Op-Ed: Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging](#)

Kendallville News-Sun, Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 11/12/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

A recent study by the **Public Interest Research Group** found that the top 100 tax-dodging corporations collectively shelter almost \$1.2 trillion in profit offshore. One company, Bank of America, has 316 subsidiaries in tax haven countries. Call me cynical, but I think it's unlikely that the bank has much business in the Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Mauritius, Gibraltar, the Bahamas, Switzerland, Bermuda, Curacao, Monaco and the British Virgin Islands and other well-known tax havens.

This is a shell game only the big guys with teams of lawyers can afford to play. The small businesses I advise plow nearly all of their revenues back into their operations. Never once in more than 20 years of helping businesses thrive have I recommended that an entrepreneur form a dummy corporation in the Caribbean in order to evade a tax bill.

Corporate giants already have enough advantages over the little guys. With their gigantic budgets, huge staffs, national distribution networks, quantity discounts, saturation advertising and pinpoint marketing, they're already clobbering their small competitors. Why should they get an extra leg up through loopholes in the tax code?

[Op-Ed: Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging](#)

The Evening Star, Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 11/12/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

[Op-Ed: Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging](#)

Herald Republican, Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 11/12/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

[Op-Ed: Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging](#)

KPCNews, Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 11/12/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

Op-Ed: Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging

Greensburg Daily News, Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 10/31/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

Letter to the Editor: Target tax loopholes, not food stamps

Journal Gazette, Rochell Benveniste, September 29, 2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

Up to 6 million people will be kicked off the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) if the proposed cut goes through. Ever since the Great Recession hit, millions of middle class families have relied on SNAP to feed their kids and stave off poverty.

Household names such as General Electric, Boeing and Verizon go years without paying any federal income tax. Despite record profits, corporate tax receipts are at their lowest relative level in 60 years. Instead of letting kids go hungry by cutting SNAP, let's snap shut the loophole on corporate taxes.

Letter to the Editor: Congress should close corporate tax loopholes

Rochelle Benveniste, 9/20/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies

Greensburg Daily News, Rep. John Conyers, 9/5/2013

Blog Post: Tax reform Solve problems by closing corporation loophole

The Elkhart Truth, Jeremy Bernstein, **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**, 9/4/2013

Big, profitable corporations pay on average only one-third of the official tax rate — or a mere 12.6 percent — according to a recent study by the Government Accountability Office. Corporate tax receipts as a percentage of total federal revenue are at a 60-year low, according to the Office of Management and Budget.

If we closed the huge tax loophole that encourages corporations to hide profits and ship jobs overseas we could raise \$600 billion over the next decade, a Senate study found. If we limited the tax deductions of multimillionaires to the same level as middle-class families, we could raise another \$500 billion, according to the Joint Tax Committee of Congress.

Op-Ed: Let's pledge to do better by our working families

South Bend Tribune, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/2/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

Incredibly, our tax system provides huge incentives to American companies to shift profits to offshore tax havens where they pay little or no tax. Why should companies get tax breaks to ship our jobs overseas, while the rest of us pick up the tab to make up for what companies don't contribute? The biggest corporate tax loophole makes this possible. If we close it we can raise \$600 billion over the next decade, according to Congress's Joint Tax Committee.

Wealthy individuals are ducking their fair share, too. If you're an Indianapolis banker with a million-dollar mansion in the Meridian-Kessler neighborhood, you're able to deduct almost 40 cents of every dollar you pay in mortgage interest. But a middle-class worker with a home in

South Bend can only write off 28 cents or less, depending on annual income. That's not only unfair, but expensive: we can raise \$500 billion over the next decade if we cap tax breaks for the wealthy at the middle-class rate, according to Congress's tax scorekeeper. This Labor Day let's pledge to do better by our working families, by our economy and by our nation. Let's create jobs, strengthen critical public investments like Social Security and Medicare, and pursue responsible deficit reduction by restoring fair taxes on corporations and the wealthy.

[Op-Ed: Help working families rather than ship jobs overseas](#)

Northwest Indiana Times, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/2/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Let's pledge to do better by our working families](#)

Tribune Star, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/2/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Help working families](#)

The Reporter, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/2/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Help U.S workers, not the tax-dodgers](#)

Kokomo Tribune, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/1/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Let's pledge to do better by our working families](#)

The Star Press, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/1/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Public policy can relieve inequality, diminish poverty](#)

The Elkhart Truth, Judith M. Davis, 8/19/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

One honest proposal for increasing revenue calls for closing tax loopholes for the huge corporations like Bank of America, Apple and Pfizer that conceal profits and ship jobs overseas. Closing those loopholes would raise nearly \$600 billion over the next 10 years. In addition, limiting tax deductions for the wealthiest 2 percent to the same level as that of the middle class would raise another \$500 billion during the next decade.

Getting our economy going again calls for a greater contributions from the wealthiest individuals and corporations who have so far dodged paying their share. A tax code that holds them accountable for paying their fair share would provide enough revenue to preserve Social Security and Medicare — and that should be the priority for our elected leaders, including U.S. Sen. Donnelly, who has long been a champion for seniors.

[Op-Ed: People's Forum: Sequester's impact felt fully at local level](#)

The Elkhart Truth, Jo Ellen Bernstein, Goshen, 7/30/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

The federal deficit is here and it is real and there is no obvious answer to solve our problems. But, there are some obvious answers that begin to help our economy recover. While a teacher is struggling to give its students the quality of education they deserve, a portion of Americans

are not doing anything to help. Big corporations have avoided paying their fair share and it is negatively affecting the individuals of our communities.

We must start to fix this economic problem. I don't want to see individuals hurting anymore. We need to keep corporations accountable for shipping jobs and profits overseas. We need to end corporate tax loopholes so that these corporations can invest in individuals in our community.

Big picture impact of sequester doesn't tell the story

The Elkhart Truth, Jo Ellen Bernstein, 7/30/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

The federal deficit is here and it is real and there is no obvious answer to solve our problems. But, there are some obvious answers that begin to help our economy recover. While a teacher is struggling to give its students the quality of education they deserve, a portion of Americans are not doing anything to help. Big corporations have avoided paying their fair share and it is negatively affecting the individuals of our communities.

Elkhart protesters demonstrate ahead of likely debt-ceiling debate

The Elkhart Truth, Tim Vandenak, 7/30/2013

The northern Indiana chapter of **Americans for Democratic Action** sponsored a demonstration there to protest what the critics term tax breaks for oil companies. Their effort was directed at ExxonMobil, which has a station north of the Cassopolis-C.R. 6 crossing.

"ExxonMobil, America's largest company, has made a killing from rising world oil prices and its investments in fracking, but it has also enjoyed massive taxpayer subsidies from corporate tax loopholes," a press release from event organizer Jeremy Bernstein said in announcing the event.

The protest was timed ahead of likely national debate on the U.S. debt ceiling, expected to expire in September, according to USA Today (look here). One of the lingering questions regarding the debt issue is whether to address it by spending cuts (favored by the GOP) or via a mix of spending cuts and new revenue, from tax increases and an end to certain tax breaks (the Democratic view).

Blog Post: Big picture impact of sequester doesn't tell the story

The Goshen News, Jo Ellen Bernstein, 7/30/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

We must start to fix this economic problem. I don't want to see individuals hurting anymore. We need to keep corporations accountable for shipping jobs and profits overseas. We need to end corporate tax loopholes so that these corporations can invest in individuals in our community.

Blog Post: Tax Loopholes hurt communities

The Goshen News, Jo Ellen Bernstein, 7/24/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

[Letter to the Editor: Voice of the People: Corporations must pay fair share](#)

South Bend Tribune, Lance Yoder, 6/12/2013, Secured by **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**

Indiana's pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly has been avoiding taxes by moving ownership of patents and trademarks to subsidiaries in low- or no-tax countries. According to a March 11 Indianapolis Star article, the six biggest U.S. drug makers avoided paying \$7.05 billion in U.S. taxes last year by shifting their profits overseas. The fact is, Apple and Lilly are not breaking any laws. This is completely legal.

We should not be debating if we privatize Medicare or cut Social Security while billion-dollar corporations avoid paying taxes legally. The way we fix our deficit and our economy is by closing tax loopholes for corporations and making sure they pay their fair share.

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Indiana Herald, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Town Hall Meeting Focuses on Tax Fairness and National Debt](#)

The Elkhart Truth, Emily Pfund, 4/15/2013

ELKHART — The solution to the current national budget crisis is to increase revenue, not cut vital services, Elkhart County residents said Monday at a town hall meeting.

The meeting at the Teamster's Hall on U.S. 33 in Dunlap was organized by **Americans for Democratic Action** around the theme "Who Pays?" as part of the ADA's ongoing campaign on tax fairness.

[Corporations Should Pay Their Fair Share](#)

Goshen News, Jeremy Bernstein, **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**, 4/7/2013

Big corporations work hard to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. The effect on the American people is higher taxes for the rest of us, fewer public investments, more debt, or some combination of the three.

Unlike an average worker or independent business, multinational firms can manipulate the reporting of their income in ways that slash or eliminate their tax bill. They can, for instance, funnel their domestic profits through a dummy subsidiary in a foreign country to make it look like money actually made from the hard work of U.S. employees and the hard-earned purchases of U.S. consumers were actually made in a low- or no-tax haven overseas.

[Corporations Should Pay Their Fair Share](#)

Elkhart Truth, Jeremy Bernstein, **Indiana Americans for Democratic Action**, 4/7/2013

Iowa Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Will Congress ever get its budget act together?](#)

Globe Gazette, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

[The GOP should not cut food stamps](#)

The Daily NonPereil, Paul McAndrew, 9/18/2013, Secured by **Iowa Americans for Democratic Action**

No matter what Congress decides, food stamps expenditures will be reduced in November, when a provision in the 2009 stimulus bill expires. House Republicans propose cutting an additional \$40 billion. The GOP cuts would push 4-6 million low-income people off the rolls. That includes millions of very low-income unemployed people who want to work but cannot find jobs.

The GOP proposal is an irresponsible attempt to take food from the mouths of America's poorest people.

Kentucky Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Obama's Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business](#)

Floyd County Times, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Apple not alone in tax dodging](#)

Floyd County Times, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/14/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland.

Though this was Apples' most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

Congressional investigators recently found that Apple had avoided paying virtually any taxes on \$74 billion in offshore profits over the past four years. That's a big loss of revenue needed to hire teachers, build roads or pay down the debt.

Louisiana Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Loopholes should go in 2014](#)

Lafayette Advertiser, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Taking out the trash](#)

Daily Comet, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Take out trash to clean up tax code](#)

Lake Charles American Press, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Taking out the trash](#)

Houma Courier, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](#)

Thibodaux Daily Comet, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](#)

The Courier, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Maine Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Congress, start 2014 with changes](#)

The Franklin Journal, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/31/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Letter to the Editor: Questions for our senators](#)

Booth Bay Register, Stephen Gottlieb, Alex Jackimovicz, Joe & Lisa McSwain, and Michael Mayhew, 12/23/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

This new year Congress has a clear choice with regard to balancing the budget: make even more cuts to funding for federal agencies (cuts to vital infrastructure and necessary services) or it can close corporate tax loopholes and have the large corporations pay their own way the rest of us do.

[Letter to the Editor: Do the right thing](#)

Bangor Daily News, Lorry Fleming, 12/19/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

Instead of eliminating corporate tax exemptions of various kinds — a fairly easy source for \$20 to \$40 million — Gov. Paul LePage proposes to cut revenue sharing (from the state), which will only result in increased property taxes throughout Maine. He's already granted tax cuts to the wealthiest Mainers (unpaid for). Now he wants to help Walmart and Hannaford increase their bottom line, while raising property taxes for the rest of us. This is just not right.

This isn't just a Maine problem; Congress has a responsibility to close these offshore loopholes, too. In the budget compromise in Washington, members approved a deal that terminated unemployment benefits to the long-term unemployed while giving corporations a pass on offshore tax havens. We need our elected officials at the federal level to support legislation like Levin's bill on offshore tax havens, which would take a big step in the direction of making sure multinational companies pay their fair share in taxes.

[Letter to the Editor: Bipartisanship is good, not so the budget deal](#)

Portland Press Herald, Philemon Dushimire, 12/26/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

For too long, all of our budget talks have focused on cuts, but there is not much left to cut that does not have huge impacts on our friends and neighbors. We need to start talking about raising revenue. Otherwise, we will never get out of this crisis cycle.

This budget deal reduced some really scary cuts, but it will cut pensions and unemployment benefits to do so. A budget that trades cuts for more cuts isn't a fair budget, and it isn't a budget that works in the long term.

In two years, Congress will be back at it again, and the only way we can have a budget that invests in the things that Mainers need and that works for everyone is if we raise revenue by making sure corporations are paying their fair share.

Wall Street has rebounded, but Main Street is still struggling. Isn't it time corporations stopped shirking their responsibilities and put their tax dollars back to work here in America?

[Letter to the Editor: Questions for our senators](#)

Boothbay Register, Stephen Gottlieb, Alex Jackimoviez, Joe & Lisa McSwain, & Michael Mayhew, 12/23/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

This new year Congress has a clear choice with regard to balancing the budget: make even more cuts to funding for federal agencies (cuts to vital infrastructure and necessary services) or it can close corporate tax loopholes and have the large corporations pay their own way the rest of us do.

[Volunteers Sending Cards to Senator Angus King](#)

WFVX-TV Bangor News, Jaclyn Cangro, 12/12/2013

Some Mainers are sending independent senator Angus King Christmas cards, but they aren't full of holiday greetings.

Instead, the cards ask Senator King to close corporate tax loopholes, in an attempt to offset spending cuts within congress' budget agreement.

Activists with the **Maine People's Alliance** braved the cold in downtown Bangor and Portland collecting signatures.

"It's a cold day. We're a hearty group of Mainers, and we're pleasantly surprised by how many people are stopping and signing the card," says Phil Bailey.

The **Maine People's Alliance** says closing tax loopholes will benefit students and the unemployed.

[Christmas Card to Sen. King Focuses on National Budget](#)

WAVI-TV, Catherine Pegram, 12/12/2013

The **Maine People's Alliance** wants Senator Angus King to reconsider some of his support for a new two-year budget deal for the country.

So they're sending him a Christmas card.

Members stood on a corner in downtown Bangor Thursday, gathering signatures for the card. It's asking King to close corporate loopholes to help raise some of the \$85 billion in projected savings in the budget and avoid spending cuts

[Op-Ed: Cleaning up the tax code starts with taking out the trash](#)

The Franklin Journal, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 11/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Editorial: Federal budget deal must tackle tax reform](#)

Portland Press Herald, Editorial Board, 10/19/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

The appalling tea party shutdown of the U.S. government is over, and there is not much to like about what we have just witnessed. However, it appears to have ended well, and that leaves at least some hope that the national government may be headed in a healthier trajectory.

The radical Republican minorities in the House and Senate – who were willing to scuttle both government and the economy if it gave them leverage to change the Affordable Care Act – were soundly defeated by President Obama and repudiated by responsible members of their own party, including Maine Sen. Susan Collins, who worked to find a bipartisan way out of the crisis.

Now, both houses of Congress have committed to bipartisan budget talks before the government runs out of money again early next year. This is an opportunity to accomplish something that both parties and most Americans agree is needed, but Congress hasn't been able to tackle politically: tax reform.

[Op-Ed: Effects of shutdown, Acadia's closure run deep in Bar Harbor](#)

Bangor Daily News, *Linda Parker*, 10/15/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

As visitors begin to cancel their plans to visit Acadia because of the park's shutdown, the impact is felt in every hotel, restaurant, and retail space on the island and throughout our region. We are a seasonal destination, and most of these businesses have a small window of time to make their money. They make plans around that window, purchase inventory based on that timing, and hire employees to meet the demand of tourists who come to the park for the fall.

[Letter to the Editor: Senate bill would help middle class](#)

Lewiston Sun-Journal, Laurent Gilbert Sr., 10/14/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

The "Stop Tax Haven Abuse" Act would raise \$220 billion over the next decade to eliminate incentives to ship jobs overseas, reverse destructive budget cuts like the "sequester" and level the playing field for small businesses trying to compete with the big guys.

[Letter to the Editor: Time for Congress to Get Priorities Straight](#)

Maine Free Press, Linda Sprague, 9/26/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

Maine is facing the seventh highest level of very low food security in the nation. Many of our children, veterans, elderly and poor working families rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program to get enough food on the table every month. And yet, the House Republicans [voted to] dramatically cut SNAP [and] eliminate basic food assistance for millions of Americans and many of our neighbors.

I applaud Rep. Michaud and Rep. Pingree for their continued support of this important program and for standing up against the far-off priorities of the Republican leadership. These reckless cuts are just the latest in a series of attempts to eliminate assistance to struggling Americans while ignoring the fact that large corporations are NOT paying their fair share into our system. Instead of the projected SNAP cuts of \$40 billion over 10 years, why don't we look at the \$50 billion over 10 years that could be regained if we, for example, close the corporate loophole that lets large corporations get a tax deduction when they give their CEOs "performance-based" bonuses?

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies](#)

The Franklin Journal, Rep. John Conyers, 9/24/2013

[House bill's \\$40 billion in food stamp cuts would hit Mainers](#)

Portland Press Herald, Kevin Miller, 9/20/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

Matt Westerlund, of Sanford, said his family of four began receiving food assistance about three years ago, after his youngest son was born with serious congenital heart defects and Westerlund's work hours were reduced. His son has since undergone three heart surgeries.

Westerlund has followed the debate over food stamp funding in part as a member of the **Maine People's Alliance**, a progressive grass-roots group that opposes the cuts approved by the House. He said he doesn't believe some politicians' rhetoric claiming widespread fraud and waste in the system.

[House bill's \\$40 billion in food stamp cuts would hit Mainers](#)

The Kennebec Journal, Kevin Miller, 9/20/2013, Secured by the **Maine People's Alliance**

[Who deserves credit for decline of Maine's poverty rate](#)

The Banjo Daily News, Christopher Cousins, 9/19/2013

Meanwhile, Democratic-leaning groups such as the **Maine People's Alliance** continue to tout social service programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides food vouchers to needy families, as a key component of the fight against poverty.

[Op-Ed: Proposed SNAP cuts worry Maine recipients](#)

Maine Public Broadcasting Network, Susan Sharon, 9/19/2013

[Op-Ed: Effort in Congress at Tax Reform this Fall](#)

Maine Public Broadcasting Network, Mal Leary, 9/3/2013

[Maine People's Alliance Wants Tax Fairness](#)

Fox Bangor 22 News, Kristin Hosfelt, 8/26/2013

[Maine Peoples Alliance calling for tax fairness](#)

WCSH 6 News, 8/24/2013

Members of the **Maine People's Alliance** were in Bangor's Pickering Square Saturday afternoon, to try to call attention to corporate tax dodging.

The alliance has around 32,000 members statewide, some of which were in Bangor Saturday with free food on hand and tax fairness-themed games.

The point of those being to try to educate the public on what they say are ways corporations avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

[Maine Peoples Alliance Brining Tax Concerns to Bangor](#)

WABI News, 8/24/2013

[Op-Ed: Small business opposes multinational corporations' tax avoidance](#)

The Franklin Journal, Frank Knapp, Jr., American Sustainable Business Council, 5/28/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Franklin Journal, Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/14/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Portland Demonstration to Treat Taxpayers With Slices](#)

Associated Press, 4/15/2013

PORTLAND — Demonstrators will be using pizza slices as props to make their point about tax loopholes on income tax filing day.

On Monday, members of the **Maine People's Alliance** plan to hand out slices of pizza and pie representing what they see as the sliver of revenue generated from the current corporate tax system.

[Tax Protesters Make Their Point With Pizza](#)

WLBS 2, Mike Kmack, 4/15/2013

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - Demonstrators will be using pizza slices as props to make their point about tax loopholes on income tax filing day.

On Monday, members of the **Maine People's Alliance** plan to hand out slices of pizza and pie representing what they see as the sliver of revenue generated from the current corporate tax system.

[Maine Group Uses Pizza as Props in Tax Events](#)

CT Post, 4/15/2013

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - Demonstrators will be using pizza slices as props to make their point about tax loopholes on income tax filing day.

On Monday, members of the **Maine People's Alliance** plan to hand out slices of pizza and pie representing what they see as the sliver of revenue generated from the current corporate tax system.

[Maine Consumer Group uses Pizza as Props in Tax Day Event](#)

The Republic, 4/15/2013

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - Demonstrators will be using pizza slices as props to make their point about tax loopholes on income tax filing day.

On Monday, members of the **Maine People's Alliance** plan to hand out slices of pizza and pie representing what they see as the sliver of revenue generated from the current corporate tax system.

[Portland Activists Use Pizza Giveaway to Help Deliver Tax Day Message Against 'Corporate Loopholes'](#)

BDN Maine, Seth Koenig, 4/15/2013

PORTLAND, Maine — Activists from the left-leaning **Maine People's Alliance** gave out pizza to Mainers mailing in their tax filings Monday to represent what one volunteer called “the tiny slices corporations are paying” in taxes.

While giving out pizza, Maine People's Alliance volunteers outside Portland's Forest Avenue post office Monday afternoon also asked passers-by to sign a petition urging Maine's congressional delegation to support the closure of “corporate tax loopholes” that they say allow major corporations to shelter profits in offshore bank accounts to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

Maryland Media Hits

[Editorial: Budget deal: Better than nothing](#)

The Baltimore Sun, Editors, 12/11/2013

In my 30 years working at the Social Security Administration, I never once encountered a retired or disabled recipient living a life of luxury. And yet, some politicians want to solve our budget problems by cutting Social Security and Medicare, instead of demanding a little more in taxes from the folks who are really doing well: big corporations and wealthy individuals.

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

Dorchester Banner, Frank Knapp Jr., American Sustainable Business Council, 8/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: President's plan doesn't help small business](#)

Hagerstown Herald-Mail, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Tax Evaders! The Game!](#)

Baltimore City Paper: The News Hole, Edward Ericson Jr., 4/12/2013

Tax Evaders is one of the more amus-ing lefty efforts on the national bud-get to come across my email in a long while.

Based on the old Space Invaders game, you blast away cor-po-ra-tions that make bil-lions in prof-its, hold bil-lions of dol-lars off shore, and yet pay lit-tle or no income taxes.

The game is the brain-child of a consortium of the usual suspects with research assistance by—PIRG, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, etc.—and the added fun of provocateurs like the Yes Men and the Other 98%. The game is timed to President Obama's budget proposal and the coming negotiations with congressional Republicans. That Obama has already con-ceded to cuts in Social Secu-rity (albeit sly, stealthy, and targeted ones) has enraged some of his base.

Massachusetts Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies](#)

Boston Banner, Rep. John Conyers, 9/12/2013

Michigan Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Create jobs, but ensure the tax system is fair](#)

Grand Traverse Insider, Mary McGee-Cullen, 12/29/2013, Secured by **Michigan Citizen Action**

Ask politicians from either political party what their number one concern is and they'll say "jobs and the economy." But actions speak louder than words. There are actions members of Congress – including our own Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow – can take in the next few weeks that will speak volumes about their commitment to working families.

It's been a couple of months since the last Washington budget crisis, so naturally it's time for another one! But we can't all just turn away disgusted – there are important decisions on the line. And Levin and Stabenow are right in the middle of the action.

Our recurring budget dramas are caused in large part because large corporations and wealthy households use loopholes and special breaks to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. While middle-class families in Detroit and around the State of Michigan try to figure out how to buy groceries and still afford medication, the wealthy and big business are devising accounting gimmicks that allow them to dodge their taxes.

[Op-Ed: Loopholes should go in 2014](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/27/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax code hurts American businesses](#)

The Detroit News, Bruce McFee, Saylor-Beall Manufacturing Co., 12/16/2013, Secured by **American Sustainable Business Council**

I'm proud to manufacture in America. It's too bad the tax code rewards my competitors for taking their jobs, investment and profits overseas.

For the past 30 years, my family has been in the business of producing high-quality industrial air compressors. Our group provides good jobs to 260 employees working in four plants in Michigan and Indiana. Our products are sold globally and we compete against some of the world's largest corporations.

We're not afraid to compete, but we need a level playing field. The current tax structure gives a substantial tax advantage to multinational corporations that blend U.S. and foreign operations together. But the tax structure is unfair to companies like ours that have only U.S. operations. This tax inequity is also bad for the public, our economy and the middle class.

[Op-Ed: Don't repeal medical-device tax](#)

Monroe Evening News, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Hillsdale Daily News, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Cleaning up the tax code starts with taking out trash](#)

Hillsdale Daily News, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 10/5/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Food stamp cuts would starve people — and the economic recovery](#)

Electa Blog; Progressive News and Commentary, Amy Lynn Smith, 9/18/2013

In Michigan, advocates for SNAP — **Michigan Citizen Action**, the Michigan League for Public Policy, Mothering Justice and MOSES — have joined forces to call on Congress to vote NO on cuts to SNAP, which will hurt vulnerable families, children, senior citizens and local communities. Instead, they'll call on legislators to close corporate tax loopholes and make large corporations pay their fair share of federal taxes.

[Op-Ed: Everyone needs more economic rights](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer, Rep. John Conyers, 9/8/2013

[Op-Ed: Boost middle class by asking for fair share from corporations](#)

Michigan Live, Sean McCann, 8/30/2013, Secured by **Michigan Citizen's Action**

When these taxes shift from corporations to individuals, we wind up paying more for less, while they just pay less. What's happening in Michigan is a perfect example: to pay for a \$1.7 billion corporate tax cut, the state government instituted a pension tax on retirees and reduced the tax credits for working families, while at the same time drastically cutting education aid.

[Citizen group pushes for closing tax loopholes](#)

The Mining Journal, Jackie Stark, 8/26/2013

The executive director for **Michigan Citizen Action** is calling on area residents to contact their legislators in an effort to "end corporate tax breaks."

"The Congress faces a choice - continue trudging down the austerity road of budget cuts and sluggish growth or turn to prosperity built on investing in our people and everyone paying their fair share of taxes," said Linda Teeter during a Wednesday press conference in Marquette. "That choice is what the budget battles in Washington, D.C., will be this fall."

Teeter said her organization - a citizen watchdog group working to ease the tax burden on the middle class - recently released a report titled "The High Price of Tax Loopholes," which details "the sacrifices that working Michiganders have made so large corporations can reap the benefits of big tax breaks."

[U.P leaders discussing closing corporate tax loopholes](#)

ABC 10, Rick Tarsitano, 8/22/2013

Michigan Citizen Action is one of 325 organizations that make up the national coalition of **Americans for Tax Fairness**. The citizen watchdog group met with Michigan State Representative John Kivela and the Michigan Education Association at Marquette City Hall to discuss the local impact of their most recent report, which found close to \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts and credits for America's largest corporations.

"We're specifically looking at the corporate tax loopholes that allow corporations to off shore jobs. Those that take jobs from America and go to another country where they can write off all of that expense. When they bring the dollars back to this country, they don't have to pay taxes. We believe that it would be \$600 billion in new revenue to the federal budget, if that one loophole was closed," said Linda Teeter, the Executive Director of **Michigan Citizen Action**.

[Op-Ed: Reform Michigan's tax code, invest more in education](#)

The Detroit News, John Austin, 8/14/2013, Secured by **Michigan Citizen Action**

We could eliminate much of our fiscal mess by simply eliminating tax loopholes that allow corporations like GE and Apple to avoid paying taxes.

Thankfully, there's other proposed federal legislation that would actually end the incentives to use accounting tricks to stash profits offshore, encouraging companies to keep jobs stateside while raising \$600 billion over the next decade to improve education, higher education access and other needed investments like infrastructure.

[Op-Ed: Bargain Bad for Small Business](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Huron County View, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'

Hillsdale Daily News, Op-ed by Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Tax Day Tussle: Winnie Brinks vs. Joe Haveman on Middle Class and the 'Greater Good'

Michigan Live, Matt Vande Bunte, 4/15/2013, Secured by **Michigan Citizen Action**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – At a press conference this morning, state Rep. Winnie Brinks talked about a friend whom she said cancelled a fishing trip because he had a 2012 Michigan income-tax liability \$1,000 higher than in 2011.

The Grand Rapids Democrat used that as an example of how the Republican-led Legislature's changes to the state income-tax structure might be hurting the middle class.

Minnesota Media Hits

Op-Ed: Congress, start 2014 with changes

St. Cloud Times, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/31/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Congress, This Christmas help the unemployed instead of Wall Street

Crookston Daily Times, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Sequester is hurting children

The Annandale Advocate, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 12/4/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Medical Device Tax giveaway would deny Americans health care

Grant County Herald, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Device tax is fair

The Annandale Advocate, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?

Crookston Daily Times, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business

Crookston Daily Times, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform

Staples World, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/20/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Apple not alone in tax dodging](#)

Crookston Daily Times, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Crookston Daily Times, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Gap Between CEO and Worker Pay Grows Even Larger](#)

Workday Minnesota, Mark Gruenberg, 4/18/2013

General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt, among the top 100 CEOs with \$25.8 million last year in pay and perks, led the league in getting his corporation to sock away profits overseas, avoiding U.S. taxes. GE stashed \$108 billion away overseas, out of a total for all U.S. firms of \$418 billion. A separate report from **Americans for Tax Fairness**, released the same day, showed GE paid 2.4% of its \$88 billion in U.S. profits in taxes.

Mississippi Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Frank Clemente: No tax loophole for industry](#)

Clarion-Ledger, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Missouri Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Tax reform needed to support services](#)

News-Ledger, Jeanette Oxford, Missouri Association for Social Welfare, 11/8/2013, Secured by **Missouri Grass Roots Organizing**

We face an ethical choice: Do we allow corporations to keep their tax loopholes, or do we restore the services that strengthen working Americans?

Achieving real tax reform isn't easy. I should know. When I served in the Missouri legislature, I worked hard to reform a state system that was outdated, unfair and inadequate. I continue that effort now. But the case for restoring federal tax fairness is clear.

[Letter to the Editor: Tax Havens: Bill would make companies pay](#)

Springfield News-Leader, Robin Acree, **Missouri Grass Roots Organizing**, 11/7/2013

Balancing budgets is easier when you work with both sides of the ledger and everyone pitches in.

Unfortunately, for far too long, huge corporations have been using loopholes and other special breaks to avoid paying their fair share. Big companies like Apple and Microsoft hide cash in offshore tax havens, and in some years profitable corporations like General Electric and Verizon pay no federal incomes taxes at all.

There is a bill in Congress, the Stop Tax Havens Abuse Act, which would end some of the worst offshore corporate tax dodging and raise \$220 billion over the next decade.

Passing this bill would make the work of budget leaders like Sens. Blunt and McCaskill a little less difficult. Asking large corporations to pay their fair share should be something we can all agree on.

[Op-Ed: Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care](#)

Casville Democrat, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/30/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care](#)

The Monett Times, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/25/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Gasconade County Republican, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Cleaning up the tax code starts with taking out trash](#)

The Monett Times, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 10/4/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Mid-Missourians Weigh Potential effects of Food Stamp cuts](#)

KOMU 8 News Report, Alex Mallin, 9/19/2013, Secured by **Grass Roots Organizing**

"I'm supporting a family of three on a low wage job and we can't afford the food we need without food stamps," said Columbia resident Jack Bhutod. "Hunger is not a game for us. We need to eat."

Bhutod and several others from the group **Grass Roots Organizing**, or GRO, gathered outside the Boone County Family Support Division office to call on lawmakers to vote against the bill.

[Group Calls for End to Political 'Hunger Games' Over Farm Bill](#)

Ozarks First News, Lindsay Clein, 9/18/2013, Secured by **Grass Roots Organizing**

Missouri ProVote opposes a plan to make deep cuts to the supplemental nutrition assistance program -- or SNAP.

Missouri ProVote says Republican leaders refuse to end tax loop holes that corporate giants like Apple, General Electric, and Verizon use to avoid paying any federal income taxes or dramatically reduce what they pay, despite making billions in profits.

[Letter to the Editor](#)

The Mexico Ledger, Robin Acree, **Grass Roots Organizing**, 9/18/2013

[Letter to the Editor: Tax reform will boost workers, revenue](#)

Columbia Daily Tribune, Jeanette Mott Oxford & Don Love, 9/17/2013, Secured by **Grass Roots Organizing**

Our taxes pay for the common good, including the necessary infrastructure of any decent society. It doesn't make sense to heavily tax low-paid workers for the infrastructure. We are asking quite enough for them to be willing to work for less than a living wage. The individuals who profit from the infrastructure need to pay a fair share of its cost and even take pride in accepting that responsibility. Taxes can be thought of as our dues for living in a healthy society.

We recommend instead the "Tax Justice for a Healthy Missouri" (TJHMO) reform plan. After all, the share of state and local taxes paid by the poorest 80 percent of Missourians is nearly twice that of the wealthiest 20 percent, when computed as a percentage of their incomes.

If approved by a vote of the people, TJHMO would produce \$1.3 billion in new revenue for our state. These funds are sorely needed for the infrastructure that sustains economic growth and the health of our communities.

[Head Start program budget slashed by sequestration cuts](#)

Connect Mid-Missouri, Jessica Quick, 8/20/2013

President Obama announced Monday that 57,000 children across the U.S. will be cut from the Head Start program this school year, out of nearly a million children served.

Mid-Missouri advocates for the program are saying corporate tax dodgers could make up for the \$400 million that the program is losing nationwide.

"Invest in U.S." was the theme of a rally held by **Grass Roots Organizing** this morning outside Park Ave. Head Start in Columbia.

About 30 to 40 people spoke about the importance of education in the state of Missouri. "You can't have it both ways, you can't continue to give tax cuts.. tax breaks..to the richest and continue to cut programs that we all count on in the community," said Robin Acree, the director of **GRO**.

[Letter to the Editor: Reform should target corporate loopholes](#)

Columbia Daily Tribune, Bethany Wesselmann, 8/8/2013, Secured by **Grass Roots Organizing**

U.S. companies avoid paying taxes on overseas profits by deferring their income in controlled foreign accounts. The solution to end offshore tax loopholes by U.S. corporations is to put a stop to the deferral of controlled foreign corporations' active income and create a tax reform that would raise significant revenue from the top 2 percent.

[Op-Ed: Fair taxes better for economy than cuts](#)

Columbia Daily Tribune, Op-ed by Gretchen Maune, 7/11/2013, Secured by **Grass Roots Organizing**

Major profitable corporations must be pressed to do their part and to pay their fair share. If the big corporations would pay their fair share of taxes, then our government would have more than enough money to pay for critical, lifesaving programs. The Fix the Debt campaign, an industry front group that is led by millionaire CEOs, seeks to "fix" our economy by widening corporate tax

loopholes and shrinking the budgets of people living on Social Security. They want to create a debt crisis when there is not one.

We must close the corporate loopholes so that we have more revenue to work with. Then we could actually strengthen our vital programs, not make unnecessary, shameful cuts to services.

Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform

Grand City Times Tribune, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform

Monett-Times, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Grass Roots Organizing protests ‘Fix the Debt’ Outside Emerson Library

The Webster Journal, Natalie Martinez, 5/1/2013

Executive Director of GRO Robin Acree said GSO has followed Fix the Debt for some time and doesn't agree with both Holden and Bredesen about Fix the Debt.

“(GSO is) trying to draw attention to the fact that this group is nothing but a front group gearing to the mind of voters,” Acree said. “We do not have a debt crisis we have a revenue crisis and a lot of the CEOs on this committee are the biggest tax invaders in this country and if they pay their fair share we wouldn't have to cut anything especially social security or our Medicare.”

Bowling for Tax Dodgers’ Event Shows Impact of Tax Breaks

The Columbia Missourian, Robin Acree, **Grassroots Organizing Missouri**, 4/17/2013

On Monday — the Tax Day deadline — **Grass Roots Organizing** held a ‘Bowling for Tax Dodgers’ action outside of the downtown Columbia post office. The local group used the opportunity to show how tax breaks for the super-rich and loopholes for corporations reduce public investment and increase burdens on families and states by forcing cuts in important benefits and services we all rely upon.

Tax Dodger trading cards were placed on bowling pins, and people took them down with a toy bowling ball. Residents wanted to show the economic impact if the big corporations would stop stashing profits in offshore tax havens and actually paid the corporate tax rate of 35%.

Letter to the Editor: Corporations must pay fair share of taxes

Columbia Tribune, Brenda Proctor, 4/3/2013, Secured by **Grass Roots Organizing**

Letter to the Editor: Budget Debate needs reframing

The Missourian, Brenda Proctor, 4/1/2013, Secured by **Grass Roots Organizing**

Since the 2008 recession, corporate tax rates have dropped to 10 percent even though corporate profits have doubled in the past ten years. We need to strengthen, not cut, important programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We can certainly afford it if corporations pay their fair share!

Letter to the Editor

The Mexico Ledger, Robin Acree, **Grassroots Organizing Missouri**, 4/1/2013

Montana Media Hits

Op-Ed: Working poor get three lumps of coal

Montana Standard, Evan Barrett, 12/31/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

They believe that folks are poor because they want to be poor or are too lazy to work. Common sense Montanans know better. Almost all of them are following the American Dream of seeking not only a job, but better job that could lift them and their family out of poverty.

Bottom line - if the Tea Party Congressional Conservatives were Santa Claus, they would be delivering three lumps of coal to those striving to struggle out of poverty in America, starting with the minimum wage increase denial.

Letter to the Editor: Corporations: remember working poor this shopping season

Missoulian, C. LeRoy Anderson, 12/19/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

Spending deal a good start, groups say

The Billings Gazette, Mike Ferguson, 12/12/2013

Sheena Rice, economic justice organizer with the **Montana Organizing Project**, said legislators from both parties are working to restrict the use of tax havens. The bills would raise up to \$220 billion over 10 years — enough to fully replace the automatic spending cuts scheduled over the next 30 months, according to Rice.

Those proposals, she said, would “level the playing field” between large and small businesses by not allowing multinational firms tax subsidies for exporting jobs.

Letter to the Editor: Farm bill is necessary for food producers

The Billings Gazette, Marvin Quinlan, 12/1/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

As your editorial puts it: "Only on Capitol Hill is there demand to save money by letting needy Americans go hungry." And only on Capitol Hill would food aid be cut while doing nothing to stop huge corporations from dodging hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes. Sen. Max Baucus has already spoken out in defense of hungry families — he should add that we can pay for that aid by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Letter to the Editor: Law Would End Corporate Tax Dodging

The Billings Gazette, Darrell Johnson, 11/24/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

Lee Hamilton is right that getting down to the nitty gritty of tax reform takes guts ("Tax reform won't happen till Congress talks specifics," Nov. 10). But one vital part of the process he didn't mention was corporate tax reform. If our political leaders could develop the courage needed to challenge all the special preferences and breaks enjoyed by U.S. multinational corporations, we'd be well on our way to finally solving our ongoing budget dilemma without doing so on the backs of America's working families.

Unlike our economy, corporate tax dodging is hitting on all cylinders. Big names like General Electric, Apple, Verizon, Microsoft and Boeing use a combination of domestic and offshore tax loopholes to avoid billions of dollars of taxes every year.

There's a bill in Congress right now, the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act, that would clamp down on the worst overseas abuses, raising \$220 billion and keeping American jobs home in the process! It deserves everyone's support.

[Groups press lawmakers to reform taxes, protect Social Security, Medicare](#)

The Billings Gazette, Tom Lutey, 11/6/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

Worried about cuts to Social Security and Medicare, advocates on Wednesday pressed Montana's congressional delegation to close corporate tax loopholes instead.

"The weight of the deficit should not be burdened by the middle- and lower-income classes," said Gy Moody of the **Montana Small Business Alliance**. "We should end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs and profits offshore. And, we should level the playing field for small businesses that create jobs in America."

Moody was joined by representatives from **Angela's Piazza**, the **Montana Organizing Project**, a retired refinery worker and disabled veteran. The group submitted petitions bearing several hundred signatures, which called for overhauling the tax code and investing in infrastructure and an educated workforce.

[Op-Ed: Cut corporate tax loopholes, not our kids' future](#)

The Billings Gazette, Elrae Potts, **Indian People's Action**, 11/1/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

As a longtime advocate for children in the Native American communities of Montana, I can confidently report that Indian child services are not the place to look for budgetary fat. Yet federal deficit-reduction "sequester" is cutting programs like Head Start and foster care support instead of raising revenue from the folks who have it: huge multinational corporations and unimaginably wealthy households. Until we create a fairer tax system, we'll never dig our way out of debt or get our economy back in gear.

Tribal communities have historically experienced unemployment and other economic dislocations at a much higher rate than American society as a whole. More than one in four Indians lives in poverty, and one-third lacks health insurance. The Great Recession and long aftermath have only made things worse.

Ultimately, Native kids suffer most. As a social worker, every day I see the effects on children of hard times and inadequate public support.

[Op-Ed: A number of issues Daines could focus on](#)

The Billings Gazette, Kenneth Crouch, Billings City Council, 10/31/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

Tax reform: And that means fairness. In a recent three-year period, 30 corporations made \$160.7 billion, paid \$10.6 billion in taxes and paid lobbyists \$475.7 million to receive \$67.9 billion in tax subsidies of which \$265 million was put in tax havens. (From **Citizens for Tax**

Justice and Corporate Taxpayers and Corporate Tax Dodgers, 2008-2010.) Daines should work with Sen. Max Baucus, who is making this a focus.

[Letter to the Editor: Follow Max's Lead](#)

Great Falls Tribune, Marsha Schumacher, 10/24/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

The senator's plan to bring our federal budget closer to balance — “close loopholes and raise revenue” — is one I think most Montanans would support. That's especially true when you consider the alternative being pushed by other members of Congress, including cutting earned benefit systems like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

[Protesters call for end to government shutdown](#)

The Billings Gazette, Ed Kemmick, 10/14/2013

A group of protesters gathered at the Billings office of U.S. Rep. Steve Daines on Monday, urging him to “shut down the shutdown.”

The protest was called by the **Montana Organizing Project**, which advertises itself as a coalition of groups working “for economic, racial and social justice in Montana.”

Lita Pepion, with **Indian Peoples Action**, told Flint that with so many Indian Country programs relying at least in part on federal funding, “everything is hurting.”

[Letter to the Editor: Corporate Welfare](#)

The Great Falls Tribune, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/7/2013

The Tribune's Sept. 28 editorial, “Federal tax reform a laudable goal,” cited my organization's opposition to corporate tax cuts as too expensive, costing \$1.3 trillion over the next decade. But Americans for Tax Fairness has concerns with cutting the top corporate rate from 35 to 25 percent for other reasons. U.S. corporate profits are at 60-year highs while corporate taxes are near 60-year lows. Effective corporate income tax rates — what corporations actually pay — are about 27 percent and fully competitive with those of other advanced nations, according to a study by the Economic Policy Institute.

Its analysis also found no evidence that high corporate tax rates have a negative impact on economic growth.

Big corporations need to be paying their fair share of taxes; that means more not less. They've not contributed a dime for deficit reduction.

Sen. Max Baucus should start by closing loopholes that give companies tax breaks when they invest overseas or hide their profits in tax havens.

The Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act (S. 1533) by Sen. Carl Levin would do that, raising \$220 billion over 10 years.

[What big-business apologists won't mention about Boeing](#)

The Helena Vigilante, Shane Castle, 10/3/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

The main reason is the **Citizens for Tax Justice** study accounted for loopholes—in this case, tax deferrals on foreign profits. That can make a huge difference since multinational corporations are allowed to indefinitely defer paying U.S. taxes on foreign profits—even if they deduct the very expenses used to generate them. The CTJ report showed Boeing saved about \$1.86 billion through such tax deferrals in 2011.

Obviously, not everyone agrees with [CTJ's methodology](#), much less its findings. But many do. A recent poll from the **Main Street Business Alliance** found that four out of five small business owners think companies shouldn't be able to defer taxes on foreign profits. U.S. Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich) and several cosponsors recently introduced a bill that would eliminate such deferrals and loopholes.

[Letter to the Editor: Let's make sure Boeing tax breaks pay dividends](#)

Billings Gazette, Mary Dunwal, 9/29/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

Lewis and Clark County and the city of Helena are granting property tax abatements to Boeing totaling nearly \$1 million over 10 years — \$812,000 from the county and \$172,000 from the city. That's \$100,000 a year — not ballpark peanuts. It's pay to play. Anytime a company gets a tax break, other taxpayers absorb the cost. Main Street businesses and residential property owners in East Helena, Helena and the rest of the county make up the difference.

[House GOP, Daines approve \\$39 billion food stamp cut](#)

Billings Gazette, Tom Lutely, 9/19/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

The number of single mothers looking for food assistance at the Catholic charity **Angela's Piazza** in Billings has increased since the recession. Associate Director Amy Aguirre expects the need for food will only go up if food stamps are cut.

In a typical month, Aguirre might round up 700 pounds of food for women who turn to Angela's Piazza for help with addiction or domestic violence. Aguirre said 85 percent of the women Piazza helps are single mothers. A cut in food stamps will only make it more difficult for those women to cover utilities and pay for rent as more of their money must be spent on food.

[Op-Ed: Still much to address from Rev. King's 'I have a dream' speech](#)

The Western News, Rep. John Conyers, 9/10/2013

[Op-Ed: Cleaning up tax code starts with taking out trash](#)

Missoulian, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It's time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you're a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

Editorial: Federal tax reform a laudable goal

The Great Falls Tribune, Editorial Board, 9/28/2013

Trying to lure some business back to America's shores is a worthy goal through a lowering of the corporate tax rate, although the overall question is hardly a simple one. The advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness**, for instance, warns that cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 to 25 percent could cost the federal treasury at least \$1.3 trillion over the next decade, according to one estimate from the Congressional Research Service.

Baucus Summit: Huge Lovefest for the Rich and the Powerful

The Helena Vigilante, Shane Castle, 9/17/2013

Or what about Fred Smith, CEO and founder of FedEx, who treated summit attendees to a folksy platitude about not drinking beer when you need to fix the lawnmower? According to the **Citizens for Tax Justice** study cited above, FedEx enjoyed an effective tax rate of less than one percent on more than \$4 billion in profits between 2008 and 2010. While it might be encouraging for some people to hear how a man started a company himself and built it into a global shipping powerhouse that makes billions a year, all one has to do is look at Smith's mini biography provided on the summit's website to get a sense of where he started on the playing field: "Smith founded Federal Express in 1971 with his own money. He started the business with an initial 25-city network and 14 jets."

Op-Ed: Time to stop tax loopholes for big biz

The Montana Standard, Melody Rice, **Montana Organizing Project**, 9/17/2013

A few weeks ago a contingent of Montanans journeyed to Washington, D.C. to experience first-hand the ability to have our voices heard. I traveled with the group as a mental health professional and small business owner. The trip was educational, eye-opening and encouraging.

During our visit with Sen. Baucus we talked about tax reform — specifically closing tax loopholes that allow corporations to offshore their profits and avoid paying taxes. The Senator agreed that corporate tax loopholes need to end.

The current tax code needs to change and we need to encourage Sens. Baucus and Tester as they work to change the dramatic imbalance. Hard-working Americans, including small business owners, are paying their fair share and supporting our local communities while corporations are allowed to pay next to nothing! On average corporations pay just 12 percent in taxes while small business owners like myself, pay three times that of wealthy corporations and CEOs.

[Letter to the Editor: Close tax loopholes for corporations](#)

Billings Gazette, Lita Pepion, 8/28/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

Small businesses and individuals pay their fair share, yet big corporations pay a fraction of what we pay in taxes — and some actually receive tax refunds. Wells Fargo, for example, had a \$681 million return in 2012!

Congress must immediately close tax loopholes by ending off-shore tax dodging, opposing further job-killing budget cuts, opposing "revenue-neutral" corporate tax reform and the push for a "territorial" tax system. Haven't the "haves" lived off the blood, sweat and tears of the "have-nots" long enough?

[Letter to the Editor](#)

Butte Weekly, George Waring, 8/28/2013

[Montana panel offers Baucus tax reform ideas](#)

Billings Gazette, Associated Press, 8/22/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

A panel advising U.S. Sen. Max Baucus on his plan to rewrite the nation's tax code told him Thursday that the government should maintain deductions that benefit the poor, small businesses, education, retirement savings and innovation.

Baucus is working with the chairman of the House, Ways and Means committee, Republican Dave Camp of Michigan, on a plan to get rid of many tax credits, deductions and loopholes viewed as unproductive. They also want to reduce tax rates.

Baucus said he hopes the effort will result in the first major change to the tax code since 1986. He believes the code is disproportionately difficult on small businesses.

The Democrat, retiring at the end of 2014, said one issue remains the way large corporations have been able to identify overseas tax havens and essentially pay no taxes. He said the overall complexity is also hurting the nation's competitiveness.

"In what way should it be simplified? I hear generally it is way too complicated," Baucus said. The advisory council of business, farming and labor leaders said tax benefits for low-income workers and children are important to keep. They highlighted the earned income tax credit and child care tax credit as incentives that have helped the working poor stay out of poverty.

"We're of the belief that as you tear this down and build it back up you need to put these two provisions back in for families," said Al Ekblad, with the **Montana State AFL-CIO**. "These are important and we would encourage you to keep."

[Rally in Helena urges tax reform to benefit education](#)

MTN News, Marnee Banks, 8/22/2013, Secured by the Montana Organizing Project

The Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA-MFT) and the **Montana Organizing Project** are urging Congress to close what they say are tax loopholes for large corporations, so that local schools can have the funding they need.

[Op-Ed: Restore economic opportunity with corporate tax reform](#)

Billings Gazette, Ken Crouch, Billings City Council, 8/19/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

Ironically, FedEx provides another good example. Between 2008 and 2010, the company earned more than \$4 billion, yet paid federal taxes of less than 1 percent, according to a report by the research organization **Citizens for Tax Justice**.

How did the company make so much money but pay so little in taxes? For one thing, it operated at least 21 subsidiaries in overseas tax havens, to which it could transfer profits to avoid paying the taxes.

But FedEx is not the worst offender. The same report found that more than two dozen huge, profitable corporations — including DuPont, Verizon and General Electric — either paid zero federal income taxes over that same three-year period or received refunds. And while not every company can whittle their taxes down to less than a penny on the dollar, big, profitable corporations are paying at just one-third the official tax rate, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

All that lost revenue makes a difference. Our city council has been warned that under the across-the-board federal spending cuts known as the “sequester,” Billings will have to start laying off Head Start teachers this fall. That means fewer low-income kids getting the early boost they need to succeed in life. There will undoubtedly be other impacts on our quality of life — and even life-saving services — because of cuts that can be traced to corporate tax dodging.

Meanwhile, Montana’s families and small businesses are making up the difference for the tax avoidance of huge corporations. They pay an extra \$900 per family each year, \$2,100 per business — almost half a billion dollars statewide, according to a study by the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**.

[Letter to the Editor: Congress: Create Farm Bill that serves people, not corporations](#)

Montana Standard, Charlotte Trolinger, 7/7/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

Both chambers of Congress need to start over and create a Farm Bill to serve the people and all farmers, not just the biggest. The Farm Bill should be about food and the people, not Congress’s corporate sponsors.

[Letter to the Editor: Corporations must pay their share of taxes](#)

Billings Gazette, Barbara Gulick, 6/23/2013, Secured by the **Montana Organizing Project**

More tax breaks for corporations like Apple will not solve the problem. Cuts to vital services will not solve the problem. We need increased revenues. We need to protect our communities on the margins. Sen. Baucus and the Senate Finance committee need to prioritize justice, equity and compassion for those who struggle as they attempt to reform our complex tax code. They need to listen to the 360 children in Billings, to working families and to taxpayers like you and me. It is time for corporations like Apple to pay their fair share.

[Letter to the Editor: Corporations are choking the middle class](#)

Billings Gazette, Darrel Johnson, **Greater Yellowstone Central Labor Council**, 6/16/2013,
Secured by the Montana Organizing Project

As a result of failed negotiations and Congress doing more to protect corporate interests than working families, sequestration is beginning to strangle our communities. Recent press about the impacts to programs such as Billings Head Start shows that this is just the beginning. More and more programs and services that our communities depend on will be impacted, and working families will be crushed as a result.

I urge all Montanans to call on Sen. Baucus and the Senate Finance Committee to invest in our communities as they take on tax reform. It is time to take our country back from the chokehold of corporate influence.

[Op-Ed: Legislature Must Address Big Needs of Oil-Impacted Towns](#)

Billings Gazette, Brandon Schmidt, Baker City Council and **Montana Organizing Project**,
4/8/2013

The tax holiday for oil and gas companies means nearly \$100 million in lost state revenue. The companies profiting the most need to pay their fair share. That money should go to repair and upgrade crumbling roads and bridges, to pay for expanded police, fire and ambulance service, to address overcrowded hospitals, and to address the Eastern Montana housing crisis.

Oil companies don't need the financial help. We can no longer afford to shortchange Eastern Montana's roads, schools, hospitals and emergency first responders -- all of which are significantly stressed due to the oil boom. This is why it is so frustrating to see so little movement by the Montana Legislature to reform oil and gas tax revenue to get communities like mine the critical help they need.

Nebraska Media Hits

[Op-Ed: William Rice: Help feds rehire public workers](#)

Omaha.com, William Rice, **Americans for Democratic Action**, 4/15/2013

America's economy is poised to roar ahead if only Washington would stop holding it back.

Ever since the Great Recession officially ended, the private sector has been adding jobs. What's kept the economy in low gear and the unemployment rate stubbornly high has been the shrinking of government work forces: cops, teachers and other valuable public employees let go in the face of inadequate tax revenue.

New Jersey Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Medical Device Tax giveaway would deny Americans Health Care](#)

New Jersey Today, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/10/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash](#)

New Jersey Today, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](#)

NJ Today, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Trenton Times, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

NJ Today, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Corporate Tax Dodging is Simply Unpatriotic](#)

The Star-Ledger, Henry Passapera, **New Jersey Main Street Alliance**, 4/25/2013

Take New Jersey's own Honeywell. Although Honeywell has reported \$5 billion in U.S. profits over the past four years, the company had an effective tax rate of just 1 percent. Meanwhile, it has \$11.6 billion in profits socked away offshore, including in a subsidiary in Luxembourg — a widely used corporate tax haven according to an **Americans for Tax Fairness** report based on Honeywell's SEC filings. It's worth noting that Honeywell lists no plants or other facilities in Luxembourg.

Honeywell is by no means an outlier. A December 2012 report from **Citizens for Tax Justice** found the majority of Fortune 500 companies have disclosed offshore profit holdings, collectively amassing more than \$1.6 trillion overseas.

[Advocates, Students Confront Taxpayers About Christie's Corporate Tax Cut Program](#)

My Central Jersey, 4/16/2013

NEW BRUNSWICK — On Tax Day, representatives of a coalition of labor and community groups staged a demonstration and flyeried a downtown post office to raise awareness about how the drastic increase in corporate tax breaks seen under the Christie administration so far has failed to create the jobs New Jersey needs.

Advocates brought a fake giant check for \$2.1 billion made out to New Jersey corporations from the taxpayers of New Jersey and "signed" by Gov. Chris Christie. The flyers they handed out to taxpayers at the post office detailed some of the most eye-popping of Christie's grants, including a \$261 million tax cut for the developers of the bankrupt Revel casino, \$12.3 million for bailed-out bank Citigroup and \$210 million to Prudential Insurance to move four blocks down the street.

[Op-Ed: Small Business Opposes Multinational Corporations' Tax Avoidance](#)

NJ Today, Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council** 4/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

New Mexico Media Hits

[Desire to drop device tax not universal](#)

Albuquerque Business Journal, Dennis Domrzalski, 10/16/2013

Not everyone wants Congress to repeal the medical device tax that is supposed to help fund the Affordable Care Act.

More than 100 organizations, including **Americans for Tax Fairness, Families USA** and labor unions have sent a letter to Congress urging its members to oppose legislation seeking to repeal the tax.

“This is a modest, 2.3 percent tax that is being assessed on medical devices such as coronary stents, irrigation equipment, imaging machines, cardiac devices and orthopedic implants,” the letter said. “It will raise \$29 billion over 10 years from a U.S. industry that had nearly \$130 billion in sales in 2011 and that will reap significant benefits from health reform. The health insurance coverage of Americans should not be put at risk for the sake of one very profitable industry’s bottom line.”

[Stop abuse of offshore tax havens](#)

The Albuquerque Journal, Sean Foran, 10/11/2013

The Treasury Department has repeatedly warned Congress that America must raise its limit on borrowing. Yet, amongst all of the heated debates concerning the budget deadline and now the government shutdown, one aspect on the debt ceiling remains unaddressed: offshore tax haven abuse costs us an estimated \$150 billion in annual federal revenue.

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’](#)

Deming Headlight, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/08/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

New York Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn its budget lessons?](#)

Caribbean Life, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

The Sunday Post-Journal, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Take the trash out of the tax code, close corporate loopholes](#)

Caribbean Life, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King’s Dream with fair tax and spending policies](#)

Caribbean Life, Rep. John Conyers, 9/12/2013

[Op-Ed: Big corporations pay their fair share](#)

Caribbean Life, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](#)

Caribbean Life, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Caribbean Life, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Buffalo News, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Group Says Major Corporations Aren't Paying Their Fair Share of Taxes](#)

Fox 40 WICZ, 4/15/2013

One group says some aren't paying their fair share of taxes - major corporations and top earners - the so-called one-percent.

Citizen Action of New York organized a rally at noon Monday in downtown Binghamton to highlight what it says are the major companies that have profits parked offshore to keep from paying taxes on them.

[Group: Top Earners, Companies Should Pay 'Fair Share'](#)

WBNG Binghamton, Melissa Fleck, 4/15/2013

(WBNG News) As many people finish up their income taxes, members of **Citizen Action** and other local groups rally against larger corporations and tax breaks.

Members of Citizen Action deemed Monday's Tax Day as a time to call on Congress to make the top 1 percent of earners pay what they describe as their fair share.

North Carolina Media Hits

[Letter to the Editor: Help military families: Stop the sequester](#)

Raleigh News and Observer, Susan Reynolds, 12/18/2013, Secured by **North Carolina Budget and Justice Center**

Right now, there is a bill called the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act (S. 1533) that would stop corporate tax dodging. This bill would make it harder for companies to hide their profits overseas. If military families are going to lose a vital tax credit that only goes to people who work, corporations shouldn't get tax benefits by taking their money out of America.

Making sure profitable corporations pay their fair share is a good start, one easy fix that would get us on the right budget track. I'd like to see our federal delegation support efforts to ensure corporations pay their fair share. There's one more thing we can do. We have to stop pretending that we can keep slashing the budget without harming the future. Yes, we all have to pull together in these economic times. We also have to face that investing in the future – our kids'

education, and families like yours and mine – pays off. To make those investments, we need new revenue.

[Op-Ed: Clean up the tax code and take out trash](#)

Oxford Public Ledger, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 11/7/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Medical device tax giveaway denies health care](#)

Casville Democrat, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/24/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Spring Hope Enterprise, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/10/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Daily Southerner, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Lawmakers need to move to center for nation's good](#)

News & Observer, Allan Freyer, **North Carolina Budget & Tax Center**, 9/22/2013

The overarching question is a simple one: Will lawmakers stick to the failed approach of the last three years by imposing additional harsh and historically unprecedented spending cuts or will they move back toward the center and adopt a balanced approach – one that includes cuts and new revenues and does not increase poverty and economic hardship for working Americans?

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business](#)

Greensboro Business Journal, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/29/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[GOP measures do little to halt NC unemployment](#)

News & Observer, Editorial Board, 8/21/2013, Secured by the **North Carolina Justice Center**

After the 2013 session ended, state Sen. Neal Hunt sent his constituents a list of what he considers the accomplishments of the Republican-led legislature. One “to-do” item checked off by the Raleigh Republican was typical of the GOP’s claims:

“You expected us to create a competitive business climate to lower our unemployment rate and to put our citizens back into high-quality jobs; tax reform and regulatory reform will accomplish this.”

So there we have it, the problem and the solution. Yet the problem isn’t going away, and the Republican solution seems to be making it worse. North Carolina’s unemployment rate ticked upward in July, putting the state in a tie with Rhode Island for the third-highest level of joblessness at 8.9 percent.

[Op-Ed: Bad Bargain for Small Biz](#)

The Business Journal, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Bad idea for corporate taxes](#)

The Courier-Tribune, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

We need corporate tax reform, but not the type – like repatriation and territoriality – that encourages, rather than reduces, corporate tax dodging. And we don't need reform that fails to generate any new revenue from Corporate America (which so far has contributed nothing to deficit reduction), and instead uses any increased collections from closing loopholes to reduce tax rates. A recent study by the Economic Policy Institute found that there was no correlation between lower corporate tax rates and economic growth – if anything, the economy did better when corporate tax rates were higher.

There's real corporate tax reform legislation in Congress right now that would end off-shore tax loopholes and raise \$600 billion over 10 years – money to restore battered public services, rev up our economy and pay down the debt. This is true corporate tax reform that would finally end the accounting magic show and force Apples' floating subsidiaries back down to earth.

[Deferrals leave Duke Energy with no federal income tax payment](#)

Charlotte Business Journal, John Downey, 4/15/2013, Secured by the **North Carolina Justice Center**

Matt Gardner is executive director of the Institute for Tax and Economic Policy in Washington, which tracks corporate tax payments. He says Duke is not alone among corporations that have been able to defer their entire tax bills and more in recent years. But he says Duke has proved particularly adept at it.

Ohio Media Hits

[Big hopes for Small Business Saturday](#)

Akron Beacon Journal, Katie Byard, 11/28/2013

This year, the day also has a tinge of politics. National advocacy group **Main Street Alliance** sponsored a news conference Tuesday to “denounce the hypocrisy” of American Express championing small businesses while charging “the credit card industry's highest ‘swipe fees’ ”

The group encouraged consumers to support small businesses this holiday season by shopping locally and paying for their purchases with cash.

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies](#)

Cleveland Call and Post, Rep. John Conyers, 9/11/2013

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Chillicothe Gazette, Op-ed by Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Steubenville Sunday Herald-Star, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Cleveland Call and Post, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Oregon Media Hits

[Letter to the Editor: More customers, not lower taxes, needed to create jobs](#)

The Oregonian, Jim Houser & Mark Kellenbeck, **Main Street Alliance**, 10/19/2014

What creates more jobs is more customers, not lower taxes. So rather than cutting taxes for the wealthiest businesses, we should be investing in our future, and making sure that we can create the best and brightest workforce here in Oregon. A better-educated workforce means higher-paying jobs. Higher-paying jobs mean more money in pockets of Oregonians, our customers, and more money being circulated in our communities — and that's good for everyone.

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

East Oregonian, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF.

Pennsylvania Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

St. Mary's The Daily Press, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Ridgway Record, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies](#)

El Hispano, Rep. John Conyers, 9/18/2013

[Op-Ed: Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash](#)

The Kane Republican, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash](#)

Ridgway Record, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash](#)

The Bucks County Courier Times, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](#)

Pocono Record, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](#)

The Kane Republican, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

El Hispano, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Scranton Times, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Kane Republican, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

St Mary's Daily Press, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Ridgway Record, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Rhode Island Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Obama's Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business](#)

The Kent County Daily Times, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Kent County Daily Times, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies](#)

Westerly Sun, Rep. John Conyers, 9/7/2013

[Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](#)

The Westerly Sun, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/18/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Washington's 'Grand Bargain' is no bargain for most](#)

The Westerly Sun, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/14/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Tennessee Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Congress: Loopholes should go in 2014](#)

The Tennessean, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Columbia Daily Herald, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Cleaning up the tax code starts with taking out trash](#)

Nashville Pride, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/20/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's 'dream' with fair tax policies](#)

La Follette Press, Rep. John Conyers, 9/12/2013

[Op-Ed: Corporate tax breaks are unfair to communities](#)

The Tennessean, MaryAnne Howland, **American Sustainable Business Council**, 9/9/2013

There are dozens of corporate loopholes in the tax code. Many of them have no positive value for our country. Among the most egregious are accounting loopholes that allow American corporations to shift their profits earned in the U.S. to nations that impose little or no taxes on that income. This tax loophole costs the U.S. Treasury an estimated \$90 billion a year. That's nearly \$247 million every day of the year.

Many other small-business owners agree with my concerns. Ninety-one percent of small-business owners said that it is a problem when big businesses use accounting gimmicks to avoid paying taxes, according to a national 2012 scientific poll sponsored by the American Sustainable Business Council. A majority of the poll respondents were Republicans.

Big-business tax dodging tilts the playing field against small business and undermines job creation and our communities.

Rather than preventing this tax dodging, some in Congress would rather talk about granting permanent tax incentives for that type of behavior. Chairman Camp, for instance, is a leading advocate for switching to a territorial tax system, which would exempt all offshore earnings from U.S. taxes, including U.S. profits shifted overseas through the magic of accounting tricks. That would open the floodgates to more U.S. profits flowing out of America.

[Op-Ed: Most of us want corporate loopholes shut](#)

The Commercial Appeal, Matt Gardner, **Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy**, 9/7/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Democratic Senator Max Baucus and Republican Congressman Dave Camp, the chairmen of the tax committees in the Senate and House of Representatives, are visiting FedEx headquarters in Memphis this week to discuss tax reform, an effort they are leading in Congress. It's an apt, if awkward location for such a conversation.

The venue is apt because FedEx's taxpaying behavior is emblematic of the challenges facing anyone seeking to fix our corporate tax system; it's awkward because FedEx is a heavy feeder on tax breaks enthusiastically supported over many years by bipartisan majorities in Congress.

FedEx's founder and CEO, Frederick W. Smith, holds a view of our corporate tax code that many CEOs share, and has said we should "reduce our corporate tax rate to a worldwide competitive level of 25 percent and we have to go to what's called a territorial tax system."

What Smith does not mention, though, is that FedEx, like many corporations that are household names, has paid hardly anything in federal corporate income taxes in recent years. Yes, the statutory corporate income tax rate is 35 percent. But the effective corporate income tax rate -- the percentage of profits corporations actually pay in income taxes after accounting for various breaks and loopholes -- is much lower for companies like FedEx.

[Op-Ed: Clean Up The Tax Code; Take Out The Trash](#)

The Morning Daily News, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/6/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Nashville Pride, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Columbia Daily Herald, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Texas Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care](#)

The Waxahachie Daily Light, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/18/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Focus Daily News, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Congress gets a failing grade for its education funding](#)

The Houston Chronicle, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies](#)

Best Southwest Focus on the News, Rep. John Conyers, 10/11/2013

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan no bargain for small business](#)

Huntsville Item, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Small Business opposes corporations' tax avoidance](#)

Best Southwest Focus on the News, Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council**, 4/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

South Carolina Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Tax Plan Bad for Small Business](#)

Lake Wyle Pilot, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Vermont Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Frank Clemente: No tax loophole for industry](#)

Burlington Free Press, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Springfield Reporter, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Fulfill King's Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies](#)

Springfield Reporter, Rep. John Conyers, 9/11/2013

Virginia Media Hits

[Op-Ed: This Christmas, help the unemployed, not Wall Street](#)

Augusta Free Press, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/24/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Letter to the Editor: Budget deal shows more work needed to protect individuals](#)

ProgressIndex.com, Sandra A. Cook, **Virginia Organizing**, 12/17/2013

Virginia Organizing is thankful for the hard work of members of Congress to reach a budget compromise that will be voted on at the end of the week. Virginia's own U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine were both a part of the conference committee that created the budget deal and we applaud their work.

Virginia Organizing was pleasantly surprised that cuts to Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare were left out of this deal, and thrilled that the budget deal means that deeper spending cuts from the sequester will no longer take effect in the new year. However, Congress missed an opportunity to close corporate tax loopholes that benefit only the wealthiest and most privileged Americans and instead chose to create a budget that penalizes people who are looking for jobs by ending long-term unemployment benefits.

[Op-Ed: Tax fairness would Allow Americans to invest again](#)

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Maria Fornella, 11/17/2013, Secured by **Virginia Organizing**

If only American corporations were as patriotic. Despite complaints that corporate taxes are too high, corporations on average pay only a third of the official federal income tax rate, according to a recent study by the Government Accountability Office.

As a result, the slice of total federal revenue coming from the corporate income tax is at its lowest level since the 1950s, the Office of Management and Budget found.

How do huge corporations manage to dodge so much of their tax responsibility? Unlike Main Street businesses and domestic manufacturers, multinational firms can play an international shell game with their profits, sheltering cash in dummy corporations they establish in foreign tax havens.

[Op-Ed: Tax fairness would Allow Americans to invest again](#)

The Augusta Free Press, Maria Fornella, 10/29/2013, Secured by **Virginia Organizing**

[Op-Ed: Will Congress learn budget lessons?](#)

Richmond Voice, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Medical Device Tax giveaway would deny Americans healthcare](#)

Augusta Free Press, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/14/2013

With some of America's biggest medical device-makers hiding their profits in tax havens, it's not surprising that the law requires that this small tax be on sales, not on profits.

A prominent Senate Republican recently floated the idea of repealing the medical-device tax as a "face-saving" measure for House Republican leaders who shut down the government in order to deny Americans health insurance. In essence, he is proposing to make all of us pay for a tax break to a very profitable industry in order to spare politicians some embarrassment. This is yet another sign that Washington's priorities are seriously out of whack.

[Op-Ed: Tax fairness would Allow Americans to invest again](#)

Tidewater News, Maria Fornella, 11/13/2013, Secured by **Virginia Organizing**

Paying back taxes is one of the requirements for undocumented workers hoping to join the "pathway to citizenship" included in the immigration reform the U.S. Senate passed this summer.

That won't stop any of the immigrants I've worked with over the years from pursuing their dream of joining the mainstream of society. Many already have payroll and income taxes withheld from their paychecks; some pay taxes voluntarily as independent contractors.

They recognize that taxes help pay for everything they love about America.

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How do huge corporations manage to dodge so much of their tax responsibility? Unlike Main Street businesses and domestic manufacturers, multinational firms can play an international shell game with their profits, sheltering cash in dummy corporations they establish in foreign tax havens.

Letter to the Editor

Virginian Pilot, 10/18/2013, Secured by **Virginia Organizing**

Letter to the Editor

Virginian Pilot, 10/15/2013, Secured by **Virginia Organizing**

Editorial: Education Cuts Unfair

GoDan River, Editorial Board, 9/9/2013, Secured by **Virginia Organizing**

The cuts toward educational programs seem very unfair to the children that are in them. The programs are losing money every year. Many have already been cut in the United States and thus cannot start back up. My solution is to get more funding from the government through corporations that aren't paying taxes.

Op-Ed: Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash

Augusta Free Press, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Letter to the Editor

Staunton News, Connie Burch, 9/6/2013

Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan is not a bargain for small business

Colonial Voice, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad bargain for small business

Hampton Roads Voice, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Obama's Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business

Petersburg Progress-Index, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Obama's Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business

Fauquier Times-Democrat, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Letter to the Editor: Education cuts unfair

News Advance, Marvin Holliness, 7/20/2013, Secured by **Virginia Organizing**

The cuts toward educational programs seem very unfair to the children that are in them. The programs are losing money every year. Many have already been cut in the United States and thus cannot start back up. My solution is to get more funding from the government through corporations that aren't paying taxes. The cuts toward educational programs seem very unfair to the children that are in them. The programs are losing money every year. Many have already been cut in the United States and thus cannot start back up. My solution is to get more funding from the government through corporations that aren't paying taxes.

Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform

Augusta Free Press, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/14/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Letter to the Editor

Virginia Pilot, David Finwall, 5/29/2013, Secured by **Virginia Organizing**

Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'

Augusta Free Press, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Op-Ed: Small Business Opposes Multinational Corporations' Tax Avoidance

Augusta Free Press, Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council** 4/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

Charlottesville Group Protests Tax Day

Newsplex, 4/15/2013

In Charlottesville, a group of people gathered on the downtown mall to protest how tax dollars are being spent in this country.

"**Virginia Organizing**" wants more money to be spent on schools, health care, and social programs and less money spent on the military.

Washington Media Hits

Letter to the Editor: End worst abuses of offshore tax havens

The Tacoma News Tribune, Jack Johnson, 10/31/2013, Secured by the **Washington Community Action Network**

When the two sides go back to the bargaining table, let's hope they have their thinking caps on. So far all the talk has been about slashing spending – the automatic, across-the-board cuts known as the "sequester," or even cuts to Medicare and Social Security. But while lawmakers are futilely trying to cut their way to prosperity, America's largest corporations are hiding trillions of dollars in profits in offshore tax havens.

Editorial: Talk of Tax Reform spurs hiring, sort of

The Seattle Times, Lance Dickie, 9/27/2013

My column is about legislation introduced by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich, who wants to go after U.S. corporations and individuals that stash stupendous amounts of money overseas to avoid paying federal taxes.

Other members of Congress want to revisit federal tax rates and simplification of the tax code.

The result has been a hiring boom for tax lobbyists and tax lawyers, and a substantial bump in lobbying expenses for companies that like things just the way they are.

Letter to the Editor: Sen. Patty Murray will fight for sustainable budget

The Seattle Times, Joelle Craft, **Washington Community Action Network**, 9/26/2013

Sen. Patty Murray is brave to be taking on the task of trying to negotiate with Republicans to find a solution to our pending budget crisis.

From shutting down Mount Rainier National Park to threatening benefits of veterans and families of the fallen, the recent closing of our government made the middle class the victim of right-wing Republican ideology.

I hope she will fight for a sustainable solution that focuses on growing our economy through responsible revenue options, rather than cutting Americans' earned benefits like Social Security, or taking food from hungry children. Big corporations like Microsoft and GE continue to make record profits while avoiding taxes. Many corporations still get a tax break for sending good American jobs overseas. Closing these corporate-tax loopholes is a more responsible approach toward balancing the budget.

[Legislation to curb foreign tax havens would bolster budget](#)

The Seattle Times, Lance Dickie, 9/26/2013

Americans for Tax Fairness cites a Congressional Research Report that American companies report earning 43 percent of overseas profits in five countries: Bermuda, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland — tax havens where the companies have scant employment or foreign investments.

[Coalition of small businesses urge Microsoft to end its offshore tax dodging](#)

The Seattle Times, Janet I. Tu, 9/25/2013

Hundreds of small business owners are urging Microsoft to end its practice of avoiding certain U.S. taxes by keeping much of its cash hoard overseas.

About a half-dozen members of **Main Street Alliance**, a network of state-based small-business coalitions, went to Microsoft headquarters in Redmond today to deliver an open letter signed by more than 200 local small business owners.

The letter urged Microsoft to “reverse course and join us in calling for an end [to] offshore tax dodging in order to make economy-boosting investments in the U.S.”

Letter writers pointed to a Bloomberg News report that found Microsoft tops the list of corporations with the largest amounts of foreign profits untaxed by the U.S. government: \$76.4 billion in 2012 in Microsoft's case. Following Microsoft were IBM with \$44.4 billion, Cisco with \$41.3 billion and Apple with \$40.4 billion.

[People who feed the hungry decry proposed \\$40 billion in cuts to programs](#)

Auburn Reporter, Robert Whale, 9/18/2013, Secured by the **Washington Community Action Network**

Among those speaking out were Auburn Food Bank Director Debbie Christian, Kent City Councilwoman Elizabeth Albertson, members of the **Washington Community Action Network**, members of SNAP, and the Rev. Jimmie James, director of Holistic Opportunities for Personal Empowerment and a member of the Kent Black Action Commission.

[Op-ed: Main Street vs. Wall Street](#)

Cross Cut, Joe Copeland, John Strang & Bill Lucia, 9/17/2013

In an online survey of 210 Washington small business owners by **Main Street of Alliance of Washington** a whopping 92 percent of the respondents, from 42 cities across the state, agreed

that large corporations are not paying their fair share of federal taxes. . Some 77 percent of respondents supported a small tax — a fraction of 1 percent — on Wall Street transactions such as stocks, bonds, derivatives and other items. The Alliance conducted the survey to provide feedback to Congress as it readies for another debate on raising the federal debt ceiling, said Tiffany Turner, Alliance member and owner of the Adrift Hotel in Long Beach, WA. The Alliance has roughly 2,500 members; most employ less than 50 people.

[Op-Ed: Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash](#)

Grand Coulee Star, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Corporate tax evasion costs us dearly](#)

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Carroll W. McInroe, 9/3/2013, Secured by the **Washington Community Action Network**

Now the mega-rich want your Social Security and Medicare too. They cleverly call their new plan the “Grand Bargain,” or “Chained CPI.” Aided and abetted by a corrupt Congress, a weakened President, corporate news, and a silent American public, their first steps are to raise the retirement age to 70, and cut the Social Security Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).

Who are these 100 or so rich men (yes, all men) who want you to “Fix the Debt,” while they refuse to pay their fair share? CEO Randall Stephenson of AT&T makes \$20 million a year, with a retirement package of \$158 million. Rupert Murdoch, owner of influential Fox News, is worth over \$8 billion. These two are fairly typical of today’s American corporate leaders – aristocratic, arrogant, and immensely powerful.

[Op-Ed: Remake the U.S. tax code without hurting health care](#)

The Seattle Times, Deana Knutsen, 8/6/2013, Secured by the **Washington Community Action Network**

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., and his Republican counterpart, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, recently proposed a “blank slate” approach to overhaul the tax code. Senators have essentially been told to assume the existing tax code is scrapped and to make the case for adding back any tax breaks and loopholes.

I hope senators used this opportunity to recommend changes that would restore equity and balance to a tax system that currently favors highly profitable corporations at the expense of everyday people and families.

The pattern we’ve seen over the past few decades has been to lower federal taxes on wealthy households and profitable corporations, leaving working families in Washington and across our nation three equally bad options: pay higher taxes, lose vital services or watch our nation go deeper in debt.

[Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](#)

Grand Coulee Star, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Grand Coulee Star, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/08/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Protest outside of Bank of America](#)

[Audio], Secured by the Washington Community Action Network

West Virginia Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Holiday cheer offset by inequality](#)

West Virginia Gazette, John David, 12/22/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

No matter how data is sliced, it is obvious that the employment and worker pay issues are creating instability in our society. According to the **Economic Policy Institute**, the top 1 percent in the country had their annual earnings increase 156 percent over the last several decades. For the very super rich, the growth was 362 percent. During the same period, worker pay increased only 5.7 percent. Last year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, real wages even fell 2 percent while corporate profits were at an all-time high, largely due to offshore tax avoidance.

It is no secret that workers are in a very weak bargaining position. Businesses are able to squeeze more out of every worker by box-store efficiencies, competition with cheap overseas labor or taking advantage of the vast reservoir of unemployed people who are forced to work for less in order to survive. Tax loopholes are many, such as the one that permits firms to deduct the cost of performance-based executive pay increases. In addition, as noted by the **National Employment Law Project**, many do not realize that low wages cost taxpayers \$3.8 billion annually in various subsidy payments -- an amount that is in essence shifted from the employers to society as a whole.

[Op-Ed: Cutting tax loopholes will save jobs](#)

West Virginia Gazette, Joshua Sword, 12/10/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

Offshore tax dodging has gotten completely out of hand, and the rest of us are picking up the tab. Because huge companies like American Express, Microsoft and Nike avoid their fair share of taxes, the average West Virginian pays \$621 more each April 15, according to an independent study. The average West Virginia small business pays almost \$2,300 more in taxes.

[Letter to the Editor: Corporations need to pay their fair share](#)

West Virginia Gazette, Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizens Action Group**, 12/4/2013

There is a bill in Congress -- the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act -- that is a positive step in the right direction. It will help ensure that the well doesn't run dry before our economy recovers. Sen. Joe Manchin should consider supporting this legislation, because it supports West Virginia.

Editorial: U.S. budget: End loopholes, abuses

The Charleston Gazette, Editorial Board, 11/15/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

Instead of cutting important government functions that actually nurture future prosperity, the country should tackle its deficit with new revenue. And some of that revenue could come from closing tax law loopholes that are now used and abused. For example:

- Change the law that encourages companies to shift jobs to other shores, said Steve Wamhoff, legislative director of **Citizens for Tax Justice**. American companies are allowed a foreign tax credit -- a credit for taxes they must pay in other countries. More problematic is allowing companies to defer paying taxes on offshore profits for years.
- End accounting tricks that make it appear profits are earned by subsidiaries in other countries, so they are not taxable in America. The IRS knows this is happening a couple ways, Wamhoff said in a recent conversation with the *Gazette*. One is that the profits American firms report to the IRS earned in Bermuda, for example, amount to 1,000 percent of Bermuda's GDP.
- Tax excess profits from intangible property. A firm may send a patent to Bermuda and then tell the IRS the company has to pay a huge royalty to a Bermuda subsidiary for the patented idea. That fake cost of doing business lowers the company's U.S. tax bill. The nation could collect another \$23 billion by ending that practice.

No one is talking about taxing corporations to the point they cannot pay stockholders or invest in future innovations. On the contrary, America works best when everyone works and everyone contributes. The nation is large and complex and has real, legitimate shared expenses, from people who keep microbes out of the food up to sentinels who guard against larger threats.

Letter to the Editor: Republicans are a bunch of sore losers

West Virginia Gazette, Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizens Action Group**, 10/1/2013

Because the radical tea party wing of the Republicans fueled by their billionaire bankrollers have decided it's time to withhold life-giving medical coverage to over a hundred thousand West Virginians and millions of Americans or shut down the government trying

Instead they should eliminate corporate tax-breaks for shipping our jobs overseas and quit letting them get away with not paying taxes on billions stashed in Bermuda. This country needs to rebuild its infrastructure and everyone should pitch in.

Op-Ed: Taking food from the hungry

Parkersburg News & Sentinel, Jerry Payne, 9/22/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

Cuts to S.N.A.P. would cost 55,000 jobs in the first year alone. This huge cut to food assistance is cruel and unnecessary. Instead of reducing food assistance to American families, Congress should be closing tax loopholes for corporations and the wealthy that cost us tens of billions of dollars every year. It's outrageous that corporate giants like General Electric, Wells Fargo and Verizon go years without paying federal income taxes, despite billions in profits. Congress has already cut over a trillion dollars from programs that serve and protect working Americans - but corporations haven't contributed a single dime to deficit reduction.

[Op-Ed: Hunger Games in Congress](#)

West Virginia Gazette, Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizens Action Group**, 9/16/2013

According to the **West Virginia Center on Budget & Policy**, SNAP helps put food on the table for one in five West Virginians. Nearly two-fifths of them are children. About one-fifth have disabilities or are seniors. A quarter of adults getting Food Stamps are raising children. How many will go hungry from this proposed "elimination"?

[Head Start Cuts – “Budget Mess Means Wealthy Get Tax Breaks While WV Kids Suffer”](#)

Public News Service, Don Heyman, 9/9/2013

Sequestration - automatic cuts triggered by Congress's failure to find a budget compromise - have meant cuts to Head Start, with more on the way. Nationally, Head Start is serving 57,000 fewer children this year than last, 500 of them in West Virginia. According to **Americans for Tax Fairness**, the cuts to Head Start are about the same size as a tax break for corporate jets, and just one-tenth the size of a big loophole used by hedge-fund traders.

[Offshore tax havens hurt U.S., W.Va., group says](#)

West Virginia Gazette, Paul J. Nyden, 8/1/2013

By transferring profits to subsidiaries in offshore tax havens, large corporations save about \$90 billion in federal taxes a year, according to a new study just released by **U.S. PIRG**, a coalition of public interest research groups around the country.

"This is not just a federal problem that affects the federal budget," said Gary Zuckett, executive director of the **West Virginia Citizens Action Group**, the West Virginia affiliate of **U.S. PIRG**.

"Those companies cost over \$100 million to the West Virginia budget. That would go a long way to help us keep our budget balanced," Zuckett said. "It is not just a federal problem."

[Op-Ed: Prosperity Agenda Should Replace Austerity Measures](#)

The Charleston Gazette, Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizens Action Group**, 7/22/2013

"Across the nation, Head Start programs have ended their school years early, canceled summer programs, cut staff pay and benefits, and have begun to announce reductions in the number of children who will be served in the fall."

Thus begins a letter sent to Congress this week by 146 national social, faith and labor groups, including the **Coalition on Human Needs** and **USAction.org**. Five West Virginia groups, in addition to **WV Citizen Action** have also signed on.

[Op-Ed: Corporations forcing enhanced poverty](#)

West Virginia Gazette, John David, 6/10/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

Corporations that utilize tax havens deprive parent countries like the United States of tax revenue while enhancing profits for shareholders. They also cause impoverishment among low-income people. For example, the budget sequestration that is causing cutbacks in various social and survival programs would not be as significant if taxes were fairly paid. In essence, we are witnessing an enormous wealth shift from the "have-nots" to the "haves" in this manner.

Right Budget Choices Are Clear

Martinsburg Journal, John Christensen, 5/24/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

Sometimes choices are hard-sometimes the right decision is clear. Right now, making the prudent national budget choices seems pretty simple to me.

On the one hand, there's the option of placing the full burden of federal deficit reduction on the backs of the middle class and poor, by undermining bedrock programs like Social Security, Medicare and education assistance. On the other hand, we could spread the burden by asking wealthy individuals and big corporations to contribute more to the common good. Does this seem like a hard choice to you?

Letter to the Editor: From Gary Zuckett

Tyler Star News, Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**, 5/22/2013

Make Wall Street pay its fair share! McKinley could co-sponsor the Wall Street Trading and Speculators Tax Act-which imposes a 0.03 percent (three-hundredths of a percent) excise tax on the purchase of securities. We pay taxes on everything-the pack of chewing gum at the 7-11 to the used car bought with an income tax check. Billionaire Wall Street hustlers pay no taxes to buy and sell stock. Why not?

Plug the offshore "tax haven" loopholes and others ways the tax system is rigged in favor of big multinational companies. A **PIRG** report called "Picking up the Tab" revealed that the average West Virginia taxpayer in 2012 would have to shoulder an extra \$621 in taxes to compensate for lost revenue from offshore tax havens. Small business would have to pay an average of \$2,300. The total cost to our state was over \$490 million.

Op-Ed: Wall Street Needs to Pay Its Fair Share

Parkersburg News and Sentinel, Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**, 5/19/2013

Make Wall Street pay its fair share! Instead of whacking our overtime pay, he could co-sponsor the Wall Street Trading and Speculators Tax Act - which imposes a 0.03 percent (three hundredths of a percent) excise tax on the purchase of securities. We pay taxes on everything - the pack of chewing gum at the 7-Eleven to the used car bought with an income tax check. What taxes do all the million and billionaire Wall Street hustlers pay to buy and sell all that stock? None, there is no sales tax or "transaction tax" on all that paper shuffling they do to make their billions. Why not?

Plug the offshore tax haven loopholes and other ways the tax system is rigged in favor of big, multinational companies who hire stables of lobbyists in Washington. A recent national PIRG report released in West Virginia by our Citizen Action Group showed that the average West Virginia taxpayer in 2012 would have to shoulder an extra \$621 in taxes to compensate for the revenue lost due to the use of offshore tax havens. The total cost of making up for this lost revenue in our state was reported as over \$490 million. The West Virginia small business would have to pay nearly \$2,300 to cover the cost of this loss to the state's treasury.

[Op-Ed: Wall Street Needs to Pay Its Fair Share](#)

Tyler Star News, Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**, 5/19/2013

Make Wall Street pay its fair share! Instead of whacking our overtime pay, he could co-sponsor the Wall Street Trading and Speculators Tax Act - which imposes a 0.03 percent (three hundredths of a percent) excise tax on the purchase of securities. We pay taxes on everything - the pack of chewing gum at the 7-Eleven to the used car bought with an income tax check. What taxes do all the million and billionaire Wall Street hustlers pay to buy and sell all that stock? None, there is no sales tax or "transaction tax" on all that paper shuffling they do to make their billions. Why not?

Plug the offshore tax haven loopholes and other ways the tax system is rigged in favor of big, multinational companies who hire stables of lobbyists in Washington. A recent national PIRG report released in West Virginia by our Citizen Action Group showed that the average West Virginia taxpayer in 2012 would have to shoulder an extra \$621 in taxes to compensate for the revenue lost due to the use of offshore tax havens. The total cost of making up for this lost revenue in our state was reported as over \$490 million. The West Virginia small business would have to pay nearly \$2,300 to cover the cost of this loss to the state's treasury.

[Op-Ed: Economic Scars](#)

West Virginia Gazette, John David, 5/4/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

Stripping away political rhetoric, what is missing is what once was called horse sense. While debt issues are real, there is lacking a serious discussion of "what is happening to whom" and how to fairly share the cost of triggered decisions. For example, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Jan Schokowsky have introduced legislation that would require corporations to pay U.S. taxes on offshore profits as they are earned, an amount projected to be \$590 billion. According to **AFL-CIO** President Rich Trumka, the legislation "would increase investment, employment and wages in the United States." This was echoed by Mary Kay Henry, president of the **Service Employees International Union**, who said the proposal would "raise revenue, restore fairness to our tax code, and create good jobs in the United States."

[Group Says Average Resident Will Pay An Extra \\$620 in Taxes](#)

Charleston Gazette, Paul J. Nyden, 4/15/2013

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**, a partner with **Americans for Tax Fairness**, released information on Monday revealing the average West Virginia taxpayer will pay an extra \$621 in taxes for 2012.

That \$621 will cover tax revenues that were lost because corporations and wealthy individuals use offshore tax havens, like the Cayman Islands, to avoid paying their taxes.

[Protesters want Head Start budget restored](#)

West Virginia Gazette, Mackenzie Mays, 10/5/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

In West Virginia, 461 fewer children will have access to Head Start this year than they did in 2012 because of the federal sequestration, according to the National Head Start Association. Head Start is a pre-kindergarten education program offered to low-income children that also provides social, health and nutrition services.

Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., Secretary of State Natalie Tennant and Delegate Meshea Poore, D-Kanawha, in addition to members of the **American Federation of Teachers**, stood outside the Robert C. Byrd U.S. Courthouse on Thursday to fight for the preservation of Head Start in the state.

[Cuts to Head Start program mourned during vigil](#)

Charleston Daily Mail, Shay Maunz, 10/5/2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

But Head Start officials warn this doesn't mean children aren't being affected by the cuts: The low-income children who qualify for Head Start also benefit from a slew of health and family programs as well as services designed to make those benefits more accessible — like transportation. None of that will be available to children who are booted out of Head Start, even if they find a place in a state-funded preschool classroom.

Stephen Smith, director of the **West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition**, said county school systems are making efforts to accommodate the students who lost access to Head Start this year but warned that they won't be able to weather much more lost funding.

[Head Start coalition gathers in Charleston against sequester cuts](#)

Metro News, Travis Brinks, 10/5/ 2013, Secured by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**

“We can’t stand it, our children are suffering. They’re not even getting services, they may qualify for the Head Start program and they may even have a slot but they can’t even get there because the transportation’s not given to them,” said **Kathy McCormick, Executive Director of the Service Employees International Union District 1199**.

The coalition is led by the **WV Council of Churches, the WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, WV Citizen Action Group, the WV Center on Budget and Policy** and dozens of other partners.

[Rahall, Tenant, Manchin, Poore, and Working Families Headline Vigil to Stop Head Start Cuts in West Virginia](#)

Logan Banner, Debbie Rolan, 10/5/2013

Charleston – Faced with deep cuts to Head Start programs and services in West Virginia, a coalition led by the **W.Va. Council of Churches, the W.Va. Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, W.Va. Citizen Action Group, the W.Va. Center on Budget and Policy, AFSC, SEIU 1199**, the W.Va. Head Start Association and other partners conducted a vigil on Thursday, September 5th to bring greater awareness to cuts made by the federal sequester and deliver a clear message to West Virginia’s congressional leaders: sponsor legislation now to stop the next round of sequester cuts scheduled for 2014.

Wisconsin Media Hits

[Op-Ed: Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care](#)

The Cap Times, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Taking out the tax code's trash](#)

Waupaca County Post West, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash](#)

The Kane Republican, Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan bad for small business](#)

Wisconsin Dells Events, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/28/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Obama's tax plan a bad deal for small business](#)

Waupaca County Post West, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF

[Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a 'Plan B'](#)

Wisconsin Dells Events, Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/25/2013, Syndicated by American Forum for ATF