



CORPORATE TAX REFORM TALKING POINTS

Day of Action, March 18, 2013

- **It's time big corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes.**
 - Dozens of big corporations – such as General Electric, Verizon and Boeing – paid no federal income taxes in the last four years. That has to end.
 - We need to close tax breaks for corporations that ship U.S. profits and jobs overseas. Those companies have to contribute their fair share of taxes.
 - We need to close loopholes so that wealthy CEOs pay at least the same tax rates as their secretaries and other middle-class Americans.
- **Big corporations have used lobbyists and campaign contributions to rig the tax system in their favor. It's time they live by the same rules as the rest of us.**
 - The big banks that we all bailed out. The oil companies that gouge us at the pump. The drug companies blocking Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices. They are all fighting to protect their special tax breaks that keep their taxes artificially low.
 - An army of corporate lobbyists is swarming over Congress to protect their tax breaks. 440 businesses and trade groups spent more than \$200 million lobbying Congress about tax reform and other issues in just a three-month period last year. [[Washington Post](#)]
 - Too many politicians have stacked the deck in favor of their wealthy campaign contributors and corporate interests, while the middle class gets stuck with the tab.
 - It's time to start making our tax code fair for average people who work hard and play by the rules, instead of skewed for big corporations and the wealthy who lobby hard and rewrite the rules in their favor.
- **Corporations have to contribute their fair share of taxes to reduce the deficit.**
 - Corporations have not yet contributed a dime towards deficit reduction. Yet \$2.4 trillion has been cut from programs and services that educate our children, keep our food safe, protect our families and nation, and create jobs.
 - Those struggling to find work, keep their jobs, feed their families and retire with benefits they've earned should not be asked to sacrifice more, when corporations contribute so little. And some even get bailed out.
 - It's outrageous that corporate CEOs with their multi-million dollar paychecks and lavish personal pension plans demand that Congress cut Social Security and Medicare for the most vulnerable Americans, while fighting to lower their already low corporate tax rates.
 - Congress faces a simple choice: are you going to stand with corporate CEOs or with our kids who need good schools and healthcare.

- **A major budget battle is happening in Washington right now. The question is who will win – corporations or middle-class Americans.**
 - In the budget plan to be voted on this week in the House of Representatives, Republicans will CUT corporate taxes by one-quarter. They want to lower the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent. That will cost a trillion dollars. That has to be stopped.
 - Republicans also propose to lower the tax rate paid by the richest Americans by one-third. That will give people making more than a million dollars a year an average tax break of at least \$200,000. To pay for this, we would have to raise taxes on middle-class Americans by \$2,000 a year. That is not the America we believe in – where the rich get richer and the rest of us get poorer.
 - In the budget plan put forward by Democrats, they propose to raise \$1 trillion by closing corporate tax loopholes and limiting tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. They have not given the details about how to do this. That's to come later this year as tax laws get rewritten. And that's where we come in.

- **Wall Street and the largest corporations in the country must begin to pay their fair share of taxes. Here's how:**
 - Corporations must not be able to continue hiding their profits offshore and shipping American jobs overseas to avoid U.S. taxes. It is anti-American. It is also an unfair advantage against small businesses playing by the rules and creating jobs here at home.
 - If we close loopholes that allow corporations to shelter their profits in the Cayman Islands and other tax havens to avoid paying U.S. taxes we can raise \$600 billion over the next decade, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. It's time to bring those profits and factories and jobs back to the United States.
 - We can use that money to invest in jobs in America improving our roads and bridges, rebuilding manufacturing and making us energy independent.
 - If we care about seeing "Made in the USA" again, we need to level the playing field between big and small businesses. That means eliminating tax loopholes that benefit big corporations. We can do it – this year if Senators NAME and NAME join with us...