



FAVORABLE EDITORIALS, COLUMNS, AND OPINION PIECES May 2018 - October 2018

From May to October, Americans for Tax Fairness provided memos and ICYMI briefs to editorial boards, opinion writers, and columnists around the country. We also did targeted outreach to editorial writers in select states. Below are editorials from May through October that ATF is reasonably confident it influenced.

NATIONAL

Washington Post (Column): Why Republican tax cuts are still unpopular

By Helen Olen

Oct. 17, 2018

“When President Trump signed the tax reform package into law last year, the measure was unpopular, but Republicans believed that would change. History suggested they might be right. Over and over again, voters have cheered tax cuts that reserved most of their benefits for the highest tier of earners and corporations, while granting a smallish sliver for everyone else. Give it time, the bill’s supporters argued: This time won’t be different. We can now definitely say they were wrong. This time *is* different.”

The Fiscal Times (Column): Republicans Ignore the Obvious Effect of Their Tax Cuts

By Yuval Rosenberg

Oct. 17, 2018

“President Trump, top administration officials and Republican congressional leaders claim that the rising deficit, which grew 17 percent to \$779 billion in fiscal 2018, is not the result of their tax cuts. They’ve acknowledged that they prioritized increased defense spending and said that they would tackle the deficit by targeting spending going forward. But they’ve ignored the effect of the tax cuts — and some other deficit-financed policies — while seeking to lay the blame for rising deficits on everything from natural disasters to Democratic spending priorities to social safety net programs.”

New York Times (Column): No, Trump's Tax Cut Isn't Paying for Itself

By Jim Tankersley

Oct. 17, 2018

“There are several ways to ask the question, “Are tax cuts paying for themselves?” Based on the data we have right now, they all arrive at the same answer: “No.” The issue here is not whether the government spends too much money, or whether tax cuts have buttressed economic growth, or even whether it’s advisable to run such high deficits in flush economic times. The issue instead is: Have the corporate and individual tax cuts that went into effect in January generated so much additional growth that tax revenues are as high, or higher, today than they would have been if the tax cuts never passed?”

Washington Post (Op-Ed): The real targets of the Republicans' Tax Cut 2.0

By Jared Bernstein

Sept. 10, 2018

“No one should be surprised that the House Republicans want to go back to the tax-cut well and draw up buckets more in tax cuts for their wealthy donor base. The plan they introduced Monday doubles down on everything that's wrong with the plan they passed at the end of last year. Its benefits go largely to the wealthy, thereby exacerbating inequality. Were it to become law, it would rob the Treasury of trillions more in lost revenue. And it does nothing to help the many in the working class who have long been hurt by being on the wrong side of the inequality divide this new bill would worsen.”

The Hill (Op-Ed): This Labor Day, workers are under attack from (by) GOP policies

By Reps. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Jan Schakowsky (K-IL)

Sept. 3, 2018

“Despite President Trump’s promise, only 4% of America’s employees have gotten any kind of payout connected to the corporate tax cut, according to Americans for Tax Fairness. The majority of working Americans received little benefit, including those who may have gotten one-time bonuses, but not actual raises. Meanwhile, average wages *have actually fallen* over the past year when accounting for rising costs.”

New York Times (Editorial): You Know Who the Tax Cuts Helped? Rich People.

Aug. 12, 2018

“The most notable outcome of the tax law is one that few Republicans talked about: Companies are buying back their own stock — a lot of it. Stock buybacks are expected to reach a record \$1 trillion this year. After Congress reduced the top federal corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, businesses are flush with cash. Lawmakers also let companies repatriate foreign earnings that they have been amassing at a rate of 15.5 percent for cash and 8 percent for other assets.”

Bloomberg (Column): Trump's tax cuts haven't done anything for workers

By Noah Smith

July 18, 2018

“Some have expressed dismay that stock buybacks seem to have taken precedence over boosting capital investment. Since the tax cuts passed, companies have been using buybacks to return record amounts of cash to shareholders — more than \$700 billion in the first two quarters.”

HuffPost (Column): Trump's Tax Cut Snake Oil Should be the Story of the Midterms

By Robert Kuttner

July 1, 2018

“According to the latest tabulation by **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)**, the total value of share buybacks has been \$503 billion since the tax act became law late last year. Corporations have spent 72 times as much on share buybacks as they have spent on one-time worker bonuses and raises. About 40 percent of all stocks are held by the top one percent, and most of the rest by the wealthiest 10 percent, so this is a pure gift for the rich.”

The Washington Post (Column): Trump's tax-cut scam will only deepen racism and inequality

By Katrina vanden Heuvel

June 26, 2018

“The six-month anniversary of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act passed last week with little fanfare. Despite Republicans' dishonest spin, most Americans recognize that President Trump's crowning legislative achievement was a plutocratic heist that will do nothing to help working people. Greedy corporations have used their windfalls to reward chief executives and stockholders, while workers' wages have actually declined. Barely a third of Americans now support the law.”

The Hill (Op-Ed): Six months in, GOP tax bill an utter flop

By Damon Silvers, Policy Director, AFL-CIO

June 22, 2018

“While stumping for his tax plan, President Trump claimed cutting taxes for big corporations would result in an average pay raise of \$4,000 for working families.

Well, the tax bill slashed the corporate tax rate by more than 40 percent and handed multinational corporations a \$400 billion tax discount on their accumulated offshore profits, but what was the result?

“Working people are still waiting for their \$4,000 raise. Average hourly wages have actually gone down slightly, after adjusting for inflation, since the tax bill passed.

“So where did all the money go? Corporations are not reinvesting their tax windfall; they are paying that money out in the form of stock buybacks and dividends.”

Washington Post (Column): The economic numbers are cheery, but don't believe the hype

By Katrina vanden Heuvel

June 5, 2018

“Trump promised to end the “carnage.” His policies, however, only contribute to the decline. His signature achievement — the tax cuts — will add to inequality. He opposes raising the minimum wage. His administrative and judicial appointees are working to undermine worker rights and free up corporate executive suites. His tax bill gives multinationals incentives to ship jobs abroad. His budgets and efforts to roll back regulation undermine protection of U.S. consumers, workers and communities. His forays into the health-care system will leave millions more without affordable health care.”

The Washington Post (Column): Repetitively cutting taxes for the rich isn't the answer

By Jennifer Rubin

May 31, 2018

“If Republicans want tax cuts, they should at the very least focus them in ways that address our outstanding economic challenges. Child-care tax credits to allow women to return to the workforce, substantial expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and tax credits to aid relocation from high- to low-unemployment locales make sense; cutting taxes for multimillionaires or for corporations do not.”

The Washington Post (Column): Shocker: Democrat's predictions about the GOP tax cut are coming true

By Paul Waldman

February 27, 2018

“But what about those bonuses that companies announced and that Trump kept touting? It's true that some companies did give workers one-time bonuses. But it was essentially a PR move. Take Walmart, for instance. It made a splashy announcement that it would be giving bonuses of up to \$1,000 to workers, which sounded great. But then it turned out that you'd only get that much if you'd been working there for 20 years, and the average worker would get around \$190. Which is better than nothing, but it isn't exactly going to transform your life. And as ThinkProgress noted, the total value of Walmart's bonuses was \$400 million, which seems like a lot until you learn that over 10 years the value of the tax cut to the corporation will be \$18 billion. In other words, about 2 percent of its tax cut is going to workers, at least in the short run.”

STATE

ARIZONA

AZCentral.com (Column): Federal workers shafted for Labor Day...and we're next

By EJ Montini

September 3, 2018

Except a study by **Americans for Tax Fairness** found that it didn't quite work out that way. Among Fortune 500 companies the group found that only 4.3 percent of workers would receive a one-time bonus or wage increase tied to the cuts. And the corporations were spending 101 times as much on stock buybacks as on bonuses or wages.

Arizona Republic (Editorial): Federal workers shafted for Labor Day...and we're next

Sept. 3, 2018

"Those big tax cuts for corporation and the wealthy were supposed to trickle down. That was the promise, anyway. Except a study by **Americans for Tax Fairness** found that it didn't quite work out that way. Among Fortune 500 companies the group found that only 4.3 percent of workers would receive a one-time bonus or wage increase tied to the cuts. And the corporations were spending 101 times as much on stock buybacks as on bonuses or wages."

AZCentral.com (Column): Montini: Doug Ducey do-si-dos, again, to the tune of billionaire dark money Koch brothers

By EJ Montini

January 27 2018

An analysis by **Americans for Tax Fairness** says the Kochs and/or their companies could save between \$1 billion and \$1.4 billion combined in income taxes each year from the Trump tax law.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Times: (Column) Trump says drug companies should include prices in TV ads. Good luck with that

By David Lazarus

October 18, 2018

The tax-policy advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness** estimated in a recent report that five of the biggest drug companies will save a combined \$6.3 billion this year as a result of lower taxes, and 10 of the leading drugmakers will enjoy a \$76-billion tax break on offshore profits

Los Angeles Times (Column): The economy may be booming, but nearly half of Americans can't make ends meet

By David Lazarus

Aug. 31, 2018

“In reality, corporations received 11 times more in tax cuts than they doled out in one-time bonuses or modest wage hikes, according to the advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness**. Moreover, companies are spending 101 times as much on stock buybacks as they are on bonuses and wages, enriching shareholders at the expense of workers, the group found.”

(Santa Clarita) The Santa Clarita Valley Signal (Op-ed): Anthony Wright | Tax Cuts Endanger Health Care

By Anthony E. Wright

August 23, 2018

Five of the major American drug firms will together save over \$6 billion in taxes this year alone, according to **Americans for Tax Fairness**. They and five others — the Pharma Big 10 — have been handed a one-time, \$76 billion U.S. tax discount on a half-trillion dollars in profits they've stashed offshore, mostly in tax havens.

Los Angeles Times (Column): Conservatives and business leaders worried about the deficit take aim at Social Security and Medicare

By Michael Hiltzik

April 9, 2018

According to a study by the progressive group **Americans for Tax Fairness**, Fortune 500 corporations will pocket a total annual tax cut of more than \$57 billion a year. Those companies have announced wage increases and employee bonuses totaling about \$5.7 billion, and stock buybacks of nearly \$201 billion.

CONNECTICUT

The Norwich Bulletin (Editorial) : View from the Left: Levies need to be imposed on Wall Street trading

By Staff

April 21, 2018

Since corporate taxes dropped from 35 to 21 percent, fewer than 45 of 500 companies in Standard & Poor shared that wealth with employees. Perhaps another 100 to date have talked about it. All tolled 30 percent announced one-time bonuses, 25 percent raises and less than 20 percent retirement or parental leave adjustments. According to **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)**, only 6.3 million U.S. workers expect to receive any compensation at all. That's from a total U.S. workforce of 155.2 million. Of 126 companies ATF analyzed, tax cuts added \$60.8 billion in revenue, 10 times more than company workers expect to receive in bonuses or wage increases.

DELAWARE

Delaware Online (Op-Ed): The verdict is in. The GOP's tax cut didn't work

By Ted Kaufman

July 6, 2018

“Shockingly low revenue from expatriated funds is just the tip of the disastrous iceberg the tax bill has become. The **Americans for Tax Fairness** released its Six-Month Report Card and found much more: ‘Although President Trump promised the average worker would see a \$4,000 pay raise due to the tax cuts, only 4 percent of workers so far are getting a bonus or wage hike,’ the report said. ‘Only 402 of the nation’s six million employers have announced any plans to share their tax cuts with employees through bonuses or wage hikes. The total is estimated at \$7 billion so far.’

“The report card continued: ‘But that pales in comparison to the \$77 billion in tax cuts that just 156 corporations are getting this year. Corporations are giving huge windfalls to their CEOs and wealthy shareholders in the form of stock buybacks, as they own most stock. Corporations have announced \$484 billion in stock buybacks since the tax law was passed. That’s 69 times more than the \$7 billion corporations have promised workers through one-time bonuses and wage hikes.’”

GEORGIA

Atlanta Journal Constitution (Column): Tax Cuts for the rich, Medicare cuts for you

By Jay Brockman

Oct. 19, 2018

“We are supposedly the richest, most prosperous country on the planet, yet somehow we can’t afford health care for our people. We can finance massive tax cuts to benefit corporations and the wealthiest 1 percent, who then fund GOP political campaigns with the crumbs off their tables, but income security for our seniors is ‘irresponsible and unnecessary spending.’”

ILLINOIS

Rockford Register Star (Op-Ed): Tax cuts for the rich, health care cuts for everyone else

By Sara Dady and Michael Rothman

Oct. 14, 2018

“House Republicans are already using the deficit that they themselves created as an excuse to make massive cuts to programs that millions of Americans rely on. But don’t take our word for it, look at what they themselves have proposed. Earlier this year the Republican House budget proposal, their vision for what government spending “should” look like, included over \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare and \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and other health programs, all in the name of fiscal responsibility.”

The Chicago Crusader (Op-Ed): Labor Day Over, Time to Start Combatting GOP War on Workers

By Rev. Jesse Jackson

September 4, 2018

Meanwhile, according to **Americans for Tax Fairness**, just 4% of American workers has seen any bonuses or raises connected to the Republican tax law—and the total payout is less than 1% of what investors got from those stock buybacks. Average wages, adjusted for inflation, have actually gone down over the past year.

Chicago Sun Times (Editorial): New GOP tax cuts just another scheme to help the rich

Sept. 24, 2018

“Republicans in Washington want to double down on a bad bet with more deficit-ballooning, wealth gap-widening tax cuts. House GOP leaders want to vote by Oct. 1 on “Tax Reform 2.0,” another scheme to make the richest Americans even richer while tossing crumbs to John and Jane Q. Public. Just in time for the mid-terms, too. A vote before November would give the GOP ammunition to claim they tried to help the middle class and make last year’s individual tax cuts, set to expire in 2025, permanent.”

Chicago Sun Times (Editorial): Why so few workers got that pay bump from Trump’s corporate tax cut

July 2, 2018

“An April analysis of all Fortune 500 companies, by the advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness**, found that only 4.3 percent of workers will receive a one-time bonus or wage increase as a result of the corporate tax cut. A later analysis, by American Prospect magazine, found that total pay hikes and bonuses to workers as of mid-June totaled about \$7 billion — just 9 percent of the \$77 billion in tax cuts corporations have enjoyed. So where’s the money going?”

The Edwardsville Intelligencer (Editorial): It's tax time, Mr. Trump

By Jeff Boyer

April 14, 2018

Further, despite a few well-hyped instances of companies sharing their windfalls with employees, the group **Americans for Tax Fairness** estimates that only 4 percent of workers have gotten raises or bonuses, and only a few hundred businesses have given them.

IOWA

Des Moines Register (Editorial): Reps. Blum, King and Young voted for budget-buster 2.0

Oct. 2, 2018

“While Americans were captivated by a U.S. Senate committee and Supreme Court nominee last week, the GOP-controlled U.S. House was busy acting to further starve the federal government and increase the country’s deficit and debt. Republicans sped through a three-bill package they dubbed “Tax Reform 2.0.” A more fitting name would be Budget Buster 2.0. The legislation, among other things, makes permanent tax cuts pushed through by Republicans last year and signed into law by President Donald Trump. After accounting for economic growth, the 2017 tax overhaul is projected to cost the government \$1.9 trillion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.”

MAINE

Bangor Daily News (Op-Ed) Tax cuts for the wealthy won’t address Maine’s health care needs

By Erin Oberson, a registered nurse at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor.
October 31, 2018

“Here’s how the tax cuts versus health cuts tradeoff breaks down in our state. Under the GOP tax law, fewer than 7,000 Mainers make up the richest 1 percent. Their average income is almost \$1.3 million per year; they will each get an average tax cut of roughly \$32,000 every year.”

Bangor Daily News (Op-Ed) Tax cuts for the wealthy don’t help small business owners like me

By Gale White, owner of Lubec Brewing Company
Oct. 25, 2018

“The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that, by 2024, 61 percent of the tax benefits from this “pass-through” business income tax cut will go the wealthiest 1 percent of business owners, while just 4 percent will go to the bottom two-thirds. That’s because pass-through business income is highly concentrated in the hands of just a few tycoons — people like Donald Trump, for instance, whose business empire consists of 500 such businesses.”

Bangor Daily News (Editorial): Tax cuts, not federal raises, are ballooning the deficit

Sept. 4, 2018

“Trying to pay for unnecessary tax breaks for the rich by blocking raises for federal workers is wrong — and the math doesn’t add up. Congress has the power to reverse this decision. It should.”

Bangor Daily News (Op-Ed): The Republican tax cuts have not been a boon for Maine’s working families

By Nick Paquet, president of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1253 in Fairfield.
Sept. 2, 2018

“No one I know has gotten a sudden \$4,000 raise because of the corporate tax cut — certainly no one in my union of electrical workers. Work and wages have been growing, but that’s part of a long trend that began after the Great Recession ended almost 10 years ago. I haven’t seen any improvement in the Maine economy linked to the tax law, and national statistics bear that out.”

Bangor Daily News (Editorial): Experts were right: Tax cuts and repeal of the individual mandate won’t help most Americans

May 3, 2018

As if to bolster this point, Apple on Tuesday announced \$100 billion in stock buybacks, a move to raise stock prices, which benefits the company’s executives and shareholders. Corporations are spending 58 times more on stock buybacks than they are spending on employee bonuses and wage increases, according to **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Globe (Editorial): Larry Kudlow’s specious supply-side tax cut claim

July 3, 2018

“IF EVER ANYONE needed further proof that supply-side-ism is more theology than economics, and that the truth is not the Trump White House’s specialty, he or she need only consider the recent pronouncement of Larry Kudlow, President Donald Trump’s director of the National Economic Council. To wit: The Trump tax cuts are paying for themselves. Sorry, Larry, but the fiscal facts say otherwise.”

MINNESOTA

Duluth News Tribune (Op-Ed): Trump’s tax bill bad for Minnesota

By Dan O’Neill, former president of the Duluth Central Labor Body
June 19, 2018

“The Republican tax bill primarily benefits the wealthiest Americans and corporations while greatly harming many Minnesotans. While hard-working families struggle to afford basic necessities like health care, the wealthiest and corporations hit the jackpot. This year alone, nine Minnesota companies will receive \$3.4 billion in tax breaks. This is 15 times more than the \$230 million Minnesota employees have been promised in bonuses and wage hikes from the tax cuts.”

MONTANA

(Libby) The Western News: (Op-Ed) BITS N' PIECES FROM EAST, WEST AND BEYOND

By Lorraine H. Marie

July 6, 2018

Research from **Americans for Tax Fairness** says the Republican-approved tax breaks will amount to an average of \$400 or less this year – and \$51,000 for the top one percent. But the \$400 gain is offset by a 22 percent hike in the price of gas, which will cost taxpayers over \$400 annually. As well, the Congressional Budget Office had warned that removing part of the Affordable Care Act would result in premium hikes costing families \$2000 a year.

NEBRASKA

(Lincoln) JournalStar.com (Op-Ed): Local View: Doubling down on tax cuts would hurt Nebraskans

By Jane Kleeb, chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party July 19, 2018

But according to **Americans for Tax Fairness** (ATF), after six months under the new tax regime, only 4 percent of workers have received any kind of pay hike tied to the corporate tax cut. Most are one-time bonuses, not permanent raises, and very few come anywhere close to \$4,000. Ninety-six percent of workers are still waiting.

MISSOURI

St. Louis Post Dispatch (Editorial): Predictably, Republicans hint that tax-plan deficit justifies entitlement cuts.

Oct. 21, 2018

“So it begins. As congressional Republicans ushered in last year’s big tax cuts, saying they would pay for themselves with economic growth, analysts predicted they would instead spike the deficit, giving Republicans an excuse to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Now that the deficit has in fact spiked, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell is testing the waters for entitlement cuts.”

Kansas City Star (Editorial): Is Charles Koch joking about funding Democratic candidates

July 30, 2018

“If the Kochs do support Trump after all, it won’t be because Steve Bannon says the they should ‘shut up and get with the program.’ There are billions of other reasons they’re likely to come around: **Americans for Tax Fairness**, which opposed the Trump cuts, estimated that ‘Charles Koch and David Koch and/or Koch Industries could save between \$1 billion and \$1.4 billion combined in income taxes each year from the Trump tax law — and that doesn’t even count how much the brothers might save in taxes on offshore profits or how much their heirs will benefit from weakening the estate tax.’”

NEW JERSEY

Star Ledger (Editorial): Republican elder fraud and how to stop it on Nov. 6

Nov. 1, 2018

“Their party's giant tax cuts, which favor the uber-rich and corporations, have exploded our federal deficit, and now, they are using this as an excuse to cut programs that older people rely on, and paid for throughout their working lives.”

Star Ledger (Op-Ed): By supporting Trump's tax cuts, GOP candidates threaten Jersey's way of life

By Eric Schoenberg, a former investment banker

Oct. 25, 2018

“The Trump-GOP tax law takes the opposite approach. Its benefits slant heavily toward big corporations and wealthy people like me. This year over a fifth of the tax cuts will go to those of us in the top 1 percent. If certain parts of the law are allowed to expire as they're currently scheduled to, by 2027 One Percenters like me will rake in no less than 83 percent of the cuts.”

NEW YORK

(Albany) Times Union: (Editorial) The tax cut bill comes due

Oct. 17, 2018

“What's worsening the deficit are the Republican tax cuts that are throwing more debt onto the generations of Americans who will have to pay all this money back. As for signs that the cuts have helped boost the economy, well, sure, throwing hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy will provide a short-term boost. And while there was a case for tax cuts to encourage corporations to repatriate billions they've hoarded overseas, all this package looks likely to achieve is to make the rich richer, at the expense of everyone else who has to pay. And now Mr. McConnell has shown just who he wants to foot the bill: the elderly, the poor, and the sick.”

Newsday (Editorial): Social programs on the block to pay for big tax cuts?

Sept. 19, 2018

“Trump and his advisers are crowing about a booming economy and crying poverty when it comes to caring for the nation. They have cut taxes, benefiting mostly the very wealthy, at a cost of \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, and now say they must cut the social safety net, which mostly benefits the nation's children and elderly, to pay for it.”

(Albany) Times Union (Editorial): It's time to tax Trump

April 18, 2018

“Why this matters especially now is that Mr. Trump signed off on a tax bill that he claimed would hurt him financially, an assertion that probably should be added to the more than 2,400 lies and misstatements that The Washington Post had counted from this president as of March 1. It's widely acknowledged wealthy individuals like him, along with corporations, were in fact the prime beneficiaries of his tax cuts. Further, despite a few well-hyped instances of companies sharing their windfalls with employees, the group **Americans for Tax Fairness** estimates that only 4 percent of workers have gotten raises or bonuses, and only a few hundred businesses have given them.”

(Albany) Times Union: (Editorial) It's tax time, Mr. Trump

By Jeff Boyer

April 17, 2018

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NORTH CAROLINA

(Waynesville) Smoky Mountain News (Column): The American worker is not getting their due

By Scott McLeod

Sept. 5, 2018

“What about the recent tax cut? There's no evidence it's helping workers, as noted by the stagnant wage growth. And those much-ballyhooed bonuses many companies were touting? An analysis by **Americans for Tax Fairness**, an advocacy group dedicated to tax reform, noted that at Fortune 500 companies only 4 percent of workers got a bonus or raise as a result of the tax bill.”

(Waynesville) The Mountaineer (Op-ed): Commentary: New report shows GOP tax giveaway is turning out to be a disaster

By Kevin Rogers

April 17, 2018

Of course, it's hardly news that the rich are getting richer and everyone else is being left behind, but what do these new tax breaks really mean for families in North Carolina? A new report from **Americans for Tax Fairness** and Health Care for America Now provides some answers. It finds that the tax bill isn't just unfair and skewed to benefit Wall Street corporations and the richest 1 percent, but that the cost of these giveaways will be shifted to the rest of us in new and destructive ways.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia Inquirer (Editorial): Why it's an unhappy Labor Day for many workers

Sept. 3, 2018

"President Trump's \$1.5 trillion tax cut – like previous massive tax cuts – has failed to trickle down to average workers in a meaningful way, and many of his policies are hurting American workers. Just 4 percent of workers at Fortune 500 companies received a bonus or wage increase as a result of the tax cut, according to an analysis by **Americans for Tax Fairness**, an advocacy group dedicated to tax reform."

Penn Live (Op-Ed): Republicans are trying to rig the game for the wealthy. Don't let them

By Marc Stier

August 4, 2018

By favoring the wealthy and corporations over working families, Washington's recent tax and budget decisions follow Harrisburg's bad example.

The newly enacted Trump-GOP tax law, for instance, gives most of the benefits to the rich while driving up federal debt, threatening funding for vital public services like Medicare and Medicaid. It's time for fairer fiscal policies at both the state and national levels.

Pittsburgh Tribune Review (Op-Ed): Joseph Sabino Mistick: Misplaced trust

By Joseph Sabino Mistick

June 2, 2018

"Our worst nightmare is coming true. We predicted that the lion's share of the benefits of this tax cut would go to already wealthy shareholders and CEOs, not to a company's workers," according to Frank Clemente of **Americans for Tax Fairness**. Workers across the country have heard that Harley-Davidson will close a Kansas City plant and eliminate 350 jobs overall. The company has also been planning to open a factory in Thailand, shipping their jobs overseas, as one machinist realized. Trust again has been misplaced.

(Washington) Observer-Reporter (Editorial): New federal tax bill doesn't treat Washington and Greene property taxpayers equally

January 2, 2018

“In the rush to produce sweeping changes to the federal tax code before Christmas, the Republican-controlled Congress has inadvertently caused confusion here at home with 2018’s arrival. ... So that means the new tax bill is treating payers of property taxes in two neighboring counties differently. If you live in Washington County, enjoy your 2017 tax return! If you’re a Greene Countian to the south, well, tough luck on the deductions. ... The premise behind the Republican-passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was that it would be more equitable for all taxpayers. But it eliminates many popular middle-class deductions, and herds the vast majority of taxpayers into standard filing. where they can’t use charitable donations or property-tax payments as deductions. That penalizes many middle-class homeowners. ... Even before it went into effect this week, the tax overhaul began offering different incentives depending on which side of the county line you live on. What other surprises might it bring in 2018?”

VERMONT

Brattleboro Reformer (Editorial): The Trump Tax Plan Report Card

Aug. 18, 2018

“The most notable outcome of the tax law is one that few Republicans talk about: Companies are buying back their own stock — a lot of it. Stock buybacks are expected to reach a record \$1 trillion this year. Since Congress reduced the top federal corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent, businesses are flush with cash. Lawmakers also let companies repatriate foreign earnings that they had been amassing at a rate of 15.5 percent for cash and 8 percent for other assets.

“Share buybacks have an understandable appeal to executives, many of whom are compensated with stock, and to investors. But buybacks do little for workers, most of whom own little or no stock. It is not even clear that buybacks are in the long-term interest of companies since that money could be used to expand into new markets or invest in technology.”

VIRGINIA

The Northern Virginia Daily (Column): Tax cuts delivering little economic bang

By Froma Harrop

June 27, 2018

“Before last year’s big tax cuts, the economy was improving nicely. After the tax cuts, the economy is doing the same – for now, anyway. What’s different is the \$1.9 trillion the tax cuts have tacked onto deficits.”

WASHINGTON

(Vancouver) The Columbian (Editorial): In Our View: The Debt Debacle

Aug. 24, 2018

“[Carolyn] Long noted that much of the corporate tax cuts have been used for stock buybacks. An analysis of Fortune 500 companies by **Americans for Tax Fairness** found that companies spent 37 times more on buybacks than they did on bonuses or increased wages for employees.”