

THE NEWS HERALD

Southerland should sign on to FairTax plan

By: Glen E. Leirer – June 3, 2013

In the May 26 Viewpoints page, Richard Rahn of the Cato Institute had a great article, “Why the IRS cannot be reformed.” Most of the article is about the monstrosity of the code and how no one, not even the bullies who work there, can understand it. The complexity of the code along with the arrogant, aggressive and incompetence of the employees are his reasoning that the IRS cannot be reformed and must be replaced.

He concludes the article with a recommendation to move to a system of user fees and consumption-based taxes that will minimize the opportunities for bias and abuse. He feels a flat tax would lessen the bias and abuse, but the opportunity would still be there.

In the mid-'90s former congressman John Linder and Neal Boortz wrote a book on a consumption tax to replace the income tax that was on the New York Times bestseller list for several weeks. Currently there is a bill in Congress to do just what Rahn is proposing. It is The FairTax Bill of 2013, H.R. 25, with a companion bill in the Senate, S.R. 122.

The FairTax plan is a comprehensive proposal that replaces all federal income and payroll-based taxes with an integrated approach including a progressive national retail sales tax, a prebate to ensure no American pays federal taxes on spending up to the poverty level, dollar-for-dollar federal revenue replacement, and, through companion legislation, the repeal of the 16th Amendment.

There are 65 co-sponsors for H.R. 25, with 11 of our Florida congressman signing on.

With the recent IRS scandal of targeting tea party groups, Congressman Tom Rooney decided to co-sign the FairTax to get rid of the IRS. Now if only Congressman Steve Southerland would do the same, we would have an even dozen Florida congressmen supporting this bill.

Now that the IRS is gearing up to enforce Obamacare, it is of the utmost importance to do something about this out-of-control bureaucracy.

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