

Letters to the editor, Huntsville Times, Tuesday March 2

Un-fair tax

The Un-Fair Tax is a tax on consumption, and a tax on consumption is a tax on the cost of living; thus it is a 23 percent tax on the cost of living.

It is additional to the 15 percent everyone across the country pays for all state and local taxes. Thus, you will be paying 38 percent of your income for taxes. Most galling is adding 23 percent to the cost of buying a home.

If you bought a house for \$100,000, it would cost you an additional \$23,000, payable over the life of your mortgage, in addition to state property taxes and home insurance. (Reference a Policy Analysis Paper #272 dated April 15, 1997, by the Cato Institute.)

The only problem with the current income tax system is the complexity of calculating tax due on incomes, given all the exemptions that make it a monstrosity.

It is far simpler to throw out the thousand or so pages of riders, loopholes and exemptions and restrict the current tax code to a linear progression of tax rates on gross incomes without any exemptions.

A tax on the cost of living serves only the very wealthy and restoration of the old age of robber barons in the United States (before the income tax was added to the U.S. Constitution.)

Bernard M. Palicki
Huntsville, 35806