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Cato Institute Says Scrap the Tax Code if the Commissioner Can't Figure it Out

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Imagine an NFL coach creating a game plan that his quarterback couldn't understand? Well, that's exactly what we have with our current tax system.

As I wrote yesterday, IRS Commissioner [Doug Shulman has proudly proclaimed that the tax code is too complex](#) for him to prepare his own tax return.

Now, here comes [Chris Edwards](#) of the Cato Institute and says that if the Commissioner can't understand the tax code it's time to scrap it:

We've got an IRS Commissioner [who doesn't even do his own taxes](#), and is not embarrassed about it. We've got complex deductions that nobody understands, including the government, as the [Maryland nurse with the MBA](#) found out. We've got a [Treasury Secretary and other high appointees](#) who apparently cheated on their taxes. And we've got the Democrats hell-bent on greatly increasing the power and responsibilities of the [overwhelmed IRS with their health care bill](#).

Now, more than ever, it's time to [scrap the current income tax and put in a flat tax](#). Or at least we could take a big jump in that direction with a "Simplified Tax," as discussed in a [new National Academies report](#). Get rid of all almost all deductions, exemptions, and credits and drop individual rates to 10 and 25 percent. While we're at it, let's drop the federal corporate rate to 25 percent or less.

For more on the two-rate tax idea, see my [Options for Tax Reform](#) and Rep. Paul Ryan's [American Roadmap](#).

It's hard to fault Edwards' logic, here, but I expect those who are wedded to the current broken system will find a way.

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