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September 17, 2011

The Honourable Jim Flaherty
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Flaherty,

I am writing to urge you to act in support of Canadians who are being affected by the US Internal Revenue Service's crackdown on so-called "offshore" account holders through the *Foreign Account Compliance Act* (FATCA) and other related legislation.

I continue to be contacted by many constituents on a daily basis who are concerned that they will be severely impacted by this action, given the harsh penalties involved, even if they had taken advantage of the so-called "amnesty" program that expired on September 9th, 2011. Many of these Canadians have lived in Canada much or even all of their lives. The Canadians who have spoken to me are not the tax cheats the IRS claims to be targeting; they are law abiding citizens who pay their Canadian taxes regularly but, understandably, had no prior knowledge of the filing requirement.

I am also concerned about the privacy of dual citizens and residents because the US has passed legislation that could require Canadian banks and other financial institutions to disclose personal information of account holders to the US government. I understand that the office of the Privacy Commissioner has indicated that this US legislation is potentially in conflict with Canadian law because the terms of the legislation would allow the US government to access private and sensitive financial information that financial institutions are bound by Canadian privacy law to protect.

Given that this onerous and unfair action continues to affect tens of thousands of Canadian citizens, I urge you to work with your US counterparts to broker a fair deal so that they are not required to file in the US or pay any penalties, and to ensure that their personal information is protected from foreign states. If filing with the IRS is required in limited and reasonable circumstances, the US should provide a full amnesty with no penalty to those who had no idea they were under an obligation to file.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely,

Denise Savoie

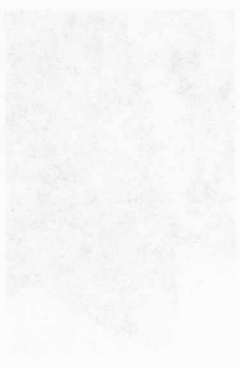
Denise Savoie, MP
Victoria

cc: Peggy Nash, MP and Finance Critic

September 13, 2011

The Honourable Jim Flaherty
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Your Honourable Secretary



Denise Savoie
MP
Victoria

I am writing to urge you to set a target of Canadians who are being affected by the US Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and other related provisions through the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and other related legislation.

I continue to be contacted by many Canadians on a daily basis who are concerned that they will be adversely impacted by this action given the harsh penalties involved, even if they had taken advantage of the so-called " amnesty" program that expired on September 8, 2011. Many of these Canadians have lived in Canada much or even all of their lives. The Canadians who have reacted to the act not only check the IRS claims to be targeting them but also claim that they pay their Canadian taxes regularly and, unfortunately, lack the knowledge of the filing requirements.

I am also concerned about the privacy of dual citizens and residents because the US has passed legislation that could require Canadian banks and other financial institutions to disclose personal information of account holders to the US government. I understand that the Office of the Privacy Commissioner has indicated that this US legislation is potentially in conflict with Canadian law because the terms of the legislation would allow the US government to access private and sensitive financial information that financial institutions are bound by Canadian privacy law to protect.

Given that the penalties and other action required to affect tens of thousands of Canadian citizens I urge you to work with your US counterparts to make a fair deal so that they are not required to file in the US or pay any penalties, and to ensure that their personal information is protected from foreign access. It is important that the IRS is required in limited and reasonable circumstances to share information with no penalty to those who had no contact with the IRS under an obligation to file.

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