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**HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**  
Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry  
Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Subcommittee on Readiness

<http://gibson.house.gov>

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 15, 2011

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:

As the Committee begins the difficult and indispensable task of finding additional deficit reductions, I respectfully request that you consider corporate tax reform among a list of proposals that you put before the House of Representatives and the Senate. I believe that fundamental tax reform can deliver increased revenue to the federal government while drastically improving the business environment in the United States, making us more competitive in the global economy.

As you know, throughout the last several months, Members of House Republican Leadership were negotiating a large deficit reduction package as part of the ongoing discussions to lift the nation's debt ceiling. According to several accounts, this proposal included hundreds of billions of dollars in new revenue that would have been derived from fundamental tax reform that closed or limited credits, deductions, and loopholes, while lowering the overall effective rates. Unfortunately, such a plan never came to fruition.

Throughout the debate that ensued as a result of the breakdown of this grand tax compromise, passionate rhetoric surrounding the nature of our tax code and role of tax increases became routine. While I recognize that the debate over taxes will continue, I remain confident that a consensus on tax reform can be reached. In particular, specific corporate and manufacturing tax credits and deductions that benefit the large integrated oil and gas companies, along with a wide variety of other corporations, should be included in a broader discussion on tax reform. Like many other deductions, these tax credits are no longer needed by a mature industry. Currently, the United States has the second highest corporate tax rate in the world, a staggering fact that without question contributes to the loss of American jobs overseas. As the House Republican budget proposes, we can broaden the base and create a fairer tax code that closes loopholes to ensure every business pays their fair share. Additionally, we should reform a system that punishes global companies that bring capital back to our shores. This can, and should, be achieved without sacrificing our competitiveness.

I believe that flattening our tax code and broadening the base will grow our struggling economy and ultimately result in significant revenues to the federal government. While the task is great, I believe your Committee has a unique opportunity to put forth a bold bipartisan solution to curbe our deficit, while addressing our broken and job-crushing tax code. I appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress

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