

American Friends Service Committee



Kansas City Program
Committee
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April 17, 2012

To: Senator Roy Blunt

Dear Senator:

Today, April 17, 2012, Tax Day we, your constituents, call upon you to work to end the inequities in our tax codes which favor the largest corporations and wealthiest Americans and shift budget priorities from Pentagon spending to community and human needs. Tax loopholes for the super rich and mega corporations has led to the rest of us, the 99%, to be left to pay for the essential services government provides and are used by all.

Today, Tax Day, the American Friends Service Committee, Occupy KC, Pay Up KCP&L, Peace Planters and PeaceWorks KC have delivered tax bills to some of the most blatant tax dodging corporations in Kansas City. These corporations were:

- **Computer Sciences Corporation**, one of the 2010 top 20 Pentagon contractors. Between 2008 and 2010 CSC earned over \$1.6 billion but had a negative 18.3% income tax (receiving a \$305 million rebate)! At the same time CSC spent over \$4 million on lobbying the U.S. government.
- **Bank of America**, the largest bank and 5th largest corporation in America, in 2009 earned a pretax income of \$4.4 billion and paid no income taxes. Instead it received a \$1.9 billion tax refund from the IRS in 2010 while spending \$3.98 million on lobbying that year.
- **Great Plains Energy** (KCP & L's parent company) earned \$517 million in profits between 2008 and 2010 and paid \$0 in federal and state income taxes during that time. Their profits doubled from 2009 to 2010, causing many to wonder why they are asking for a 15% rate increase.

We deliver to you copies of the tax bills we have given to these corporations. The profits generated by this corporate tax dodging do not benefit the public, but only enriches the corporations' stockholders.

The cause of our economic problems is not overspending on social programs. There is not a need for "austerity." The causes of our economic problems are:

- Tax Cuts, Tax Cheating Corporations and Ultra-Rich Tax Dodgers;
- Financial Speculation and Policies Favoring only the 1%; and
- Excessive Military Spending instead of investments in our future!

We ask that you recognize that a disproportionate and unnecessary amount of the federal budget is spent on the military and wars. Currently, 60% of the discretionary budget is allocated to the military, with only 7% going to Health and Human Services, 6% to Education and 3% to Housing. For our nation and its citizens to prosper priorities must change. We must invest in jobs, education and our future.

We call upon you to make all corporations pay their fair share. Further we ask you to close corporate tax loopholes, raise revenues through fair taxation on corporations and the wealthiest 1%, make deep cuts to the Pentagon budget and invest in job creation and community needs!

Thank you for your attention to needs of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Ira Harritt
Kansas City Program Coordinator