

COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY

— FAITH IN ACTION FOR THE COMMON GOOD —

Faith Leaders Appeal for Tax Fairness

Learn to do good, seek justice, aid the oppressed. — Isaiah 1:17
For everyone to whom much is given, much will be required. — Luke 12:48

April 8, 2014

Mr. John Tillman
Chief Executive Officer
Illinois Policy Institute
802 South 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Mr. John Tillman:

All religious traditions preach, teach and mandate that faithfulness to God and each other is expressed in justice and fairness toward our fellow human beings. Our scriptures declare that we should care for the widow, the orphan, and the immigrant. Our religious practices call upon us to be charitable to the poor and show compassion for those who are sick and vulnerable. Our faith demands that we live not for ourselves, but that we show concern in word and action for all of God's creation, for all of God's children.

This demand is especially true for those who have been blessed with great wealth. The wealthy have benefited greatly in our times and it is right and just to ask that they share their resources so that our society may prosper. This is why as clergy, people of faith, and people of good will, we are calling for a Fair Tax in Illinois that asks those who have been blessed with great wealth to pay their fair share. Unfortunately, your organization has been at the forefront of a mis-information campaign to convince people to oppose the Fair Tax. This would lead either to drastic cuts in services for the most vulnerable members of our state or an increase in taxes on those who could least afford it.

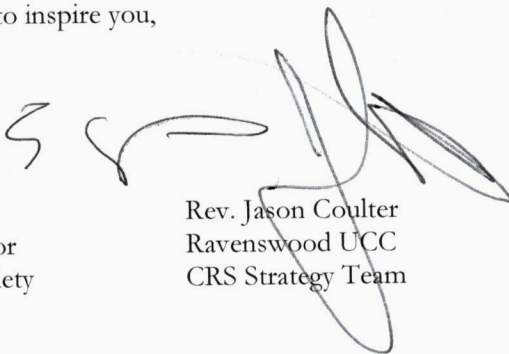
We ask that you stop opposing a fair tax. Stand with us and support a constitutional amendment to allow a fair tax—with lower rates for lower incomes and higher rates for higher incomes.

A fair tax would provide resources for our schools and ensure that services to the vulnerable in our communities are maintained. A fair tax would stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and provide a means for Illinois to repair our crumbling infrastructure. A fair tax would provide desperately needed revenue for our state that has been lost because corporations have used loopholes to avoid paying their fair share.

Praying for God's justice to inspire you,



Rev. Alexander Sharp
Interim Executive Director
Community Renewal Society



Rev. Jason Coulter
Ravenswood UCC
CRS Strategy Team



Rev. Eddie Knox
Pullman Presbyterian Church
CRS Strategy Team