

CONTACT: Nicole Tichon
Executive Director
[Tax Justice Network USA](http://TaxJusticeNetworkUSA.org)
nicole@tjn-usa.org
202-758-9552

CONTACT: Mike Russo
Federal Program Director
[U.S. Public Interest Research Group](http://U.S.PublicInterestResearchGroup.org)
mrusso@pirg.org
202-546-9707



Support Growing for Closing Offshore Tax Loopholes as Budget Debate Begins

(WASHINGTON) – As the Senate begins its debate on the budget resolution, [100 national, state and local organizations have announced their support for closing offshore tax loopholes](#) as a way of achieving the growth needed to create jobs and responsibly protect fiscal and program priorities. The priorities of these groups provide a stark contrast to proposals by large multi-national corporations that seek to retain and even extend offshore tax loopholes that cost the U.S. Treasury \$90 billion per year.

Two key proposals supported by the [Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency coalition](#) include:

- The Cut Unjustified Tax Loopholes Act (S.268) introduced by Senators Carl Levin (D-MI) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), would close a myriad of offshore tax loopholes that serve no public purpose and would raise at least **\$190 billion** over ten years. [In a letter sent to lawmakers today, groups from across the country expressed their support.](#)
- The Corporate Tax Dodging Prevention Act (S.250), introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), would eliminate the ability of corporations to indefinitely avoid taxes by keeping profits offshore. This measure would raise nearly **\$600 billion** over ten years. FACT also sent a [letter](#) to lawmakers urging their support upon the bill's introduction earlier this year.

The proposed Senate budget resolution—“[Foundation for Growth: Restoring the Promise of American Opportunity](#),” authored by Senate Budget Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) – calls for **\$975 billion** in revenues “by closing loopholes and eliminating wasteful spending in the tax code that benefits the wealthiest Americans and large corporations.”

An excerpt from today's letter reads:

“As federal revenues from corporations hover at multi-generational lows, cracking down on offshore tax abuses should be at the top of the Congressional “to do” list. The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has estimated the cost to taxpayers of tax-avoidance schemes

involving tax havens at \$100 billion annually. New estimates put the amount of lost revenue as high as \$150 billion: \$90 billion from corporate tax avoidance and \$40-\$70 billion from individual tax evasion.

This is also a jobs problem. At a time when far too many Americans are facing unemployment, our tax code is rewarding U.S. corporations for operating abroad rather than in the U.S.”

“Some budget decisions are tough, but closing the offshore tax loopholes that let large companies shift their tax burden to the rest of us is a no-brainer,” said U.S. PIRG Federal Program Director Mike Russo. “Congress should level the playing field for small businesses and restore fairness to our tax system by ending these loopholes.”

It is also clear that there is broad support among American voters for closing offshore tax loopholes to deal with budget problems. In a [December 2012 national poll](#) conducted by the Mellman Group and commissioned by Friends of the Earth U.S, an overwhelming majority of Americans - 75% - favor closing offshore tax havens as a way of addressing our national budget problems. Support for this proposal was high across party and ideological lines, as well as gender, race, educational background, and region.

FACT supports moving the country forward to level the playing field for domestic and small businesses, while groups such as “LIFT” and the Business Roundtable seek a permanent tax holiday for large multi-national corporations.

[Through reports, resources and survey results](#), the FACT coalition has made the case that corporate loopholes are raiding the U.S. Treasury, hurting small businesses, and are kept in place by hefty campaign contributions and lobbying.

**For a FACT sheet on tax haven abuse by the numbers, [click here](#).
Read [Corporate Tax Dodgers – 2008 – 2010](#) – Citizens for Tax Justice**

The FACT Coalition includes a broad range of organizations with an interest in seeing offshore tax loopholes closed due to their impact on jobs, critical programs, small businesses, human rights, corruption and national security. The FACT coalition seeks to achieve greater financial accountability and transparency within financial institutions, corporations and government. We invite you to learn more about us and our members at <http://www.tjn-usa.org/current-campaigns>.