

25 February 2015

Dear Mrs. Steans:

I am writing about the coming fiscal shortfall in state revenues during Fiscal 2015 and 2016. The flat tax causes the structural deficit. Illinois is the 5<sup>th</sup> richest state in GDP. We have a poor revenue law for supporting government mandates.

I am writing to urge you to work with others to restore the temporary Corporate and personal income tax hike through FY 2018. At this time, there does not appear to be a majority to vote for a Fair Tax amendment.

More revenue is the answer. Cuts and privatizing services don't work. A second temporary tax increase would maintain state mandated programs, pay down pension debt, and also give Fair Tax proponents like myself and others more time to educate voters in my circle of family and friends. This is the way to counter the anti-tax message of corporatists and libertarians. Buy time so you don't have to cut, privatize, or sell off the commons in order to balance a budget.

This is one-to-one organizing. I and other retirees will be building off of past work. If the legislators cannot break the deadlock in the chambers, the voters will have to create a "pressure of possibility".

Thank you for your past efforts for a graduated income tax. Do what you can do--AFSCME retirees and friends will do what you can't.

Sincerely,

Charles Hogan