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**CITIZEN GROUPS URGE SENATOR MANCHIN TO  
PROTECT WORKING FAMILIES BY STANDING UP FOR  
“FAIR TAXES, NOT CUTS”**

Charleston, WV – WV Citizen Action, a member of Americans for Tax Fairness, **delivered a message to Senator Manchin from several West Virginia groups today calling for Fair Taxes, Not Cuts** as part of a national day of action in coordination with state and national labor, advocacy and faith groups. They called on Senator Manchin to fight against special-interest tax loopholes and to press for corporate tax reform to end tax breaks for corporations that ship profits and jobs overseas to avoid paying U.S. taxes, hurting our economy.

*“it’s a basic matter of fairness that corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes while we ensure the safety and sustainability of such vital programs as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid,”* commented Rick Wilson, of the American Friends Service Committee’s Appalachian Economic Justice Project.

They delivered a large, poster sized IRS W-2 form to the Senator’s office with the names of six national companies that have major operations in WV that have paid no Federal Income Taxes for at least one of the past four tax years. Many have not paid these taxes for multiple years.

*“Now is the time that working West Virginians are receiving their W-2s showing how much they paid in federal income taxes,”* said Gary Zuckett, Executive Director of WV Citizen Action. *“I wonder how they fair they would think it is that these big corporations with Billions in profits paid none.”*

For a full report on the top “Dirty Thirty” US Corporations that exploit loopholes to avoid paying their fair share of income tax, please visit:

<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2011/11/03/360185/30-corporations-no-taxes>

*“It’s wrong to reduce the deficit on the backs of the middle class by cutting vital programs such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, childcare and education,”* added Zuckett. *“We need to end tax breaks to large corporations that ship jobs overseas and instead, use that money to invest in jobs in America improving our roads and bridges, rebuilding manufacturing and making us energy independent.”*

*More- see next page*

**Although the legislation to avert the fiscal cliff that passed in early January raised taxes on the richest 0.7% of Americans, corporations have not yet paid one dime in additional taxes to help reduce the deficit.**

*“For every \$1 that tax revenues have been increased in recent budget agreements, there have been \$2.50 in cuts from programs that create jobs. Instead of cutting funding for schools, let’s make sure corporations like GE and Verizon pay their fair share of taxes. Over the last four years they paid ZERO in federal income taxes,”* said Zuckett.

*“Most people don’t realize what a great investment social programs are. They help working families keep their heads above water and they support self-sufficiency. Companies that avoid paying taxes on their profits also avoid paying their fair share for these beneficial programs,”* commented Sam Hickman, CEO of WV Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

As Congress considers options to avert the \$1 trillion in across the board “sequestration” cuts over 10 years that are scheduled to take effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>, WV Citizen Action and their allies will urgently ask Senator Manchin to support increased revenue from the richest 2 percent of Americans and from big corporations. For example:

- Limiting tax deductions for the richest 2 percent, as President Obama has proposed, would raise more than \$400 billion and make the tax system fairer and simpler.
- Closing loopholes that allow corporations to ship profits – and U.S. jobs – overseas to avoid paying U.S. taxes. We lose \$100 billion a year in taxes from this loophole.
- Eliminating the loopholes and tax breaks that allow the very wealthy to pay a lower tax rate than middle-class taxpayers could raise hundreds of billions of dollars.

Americans for Tax Fairness partners in 18 states are mobilizing average Americans to press for “Fair Taxes, Not Cuts” through national days of action, lobby visits and calls to Senate offices and social media activity.

Copy of Letter delivered to Sen. Manchin on next page...

a		OMB No. 1545-0008		This information is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. If you are required to file a tax return, a negligence penalty or other sanction may be imposed on you if this income is taxable and you fail to report it.	
c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code  <b>NiSource Doing Business in WV as Columbia Gas Transmission</b>		<sup>1</sup> TOTAL PROFIT		<sup>2</sup> INCOME TAX	
		\$1,385,000,000		0	
		7		6	
		9		10	
		11		12a See instructions for box 12	
		13 Statutory employee <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Third-party sick pay <input type="checkbox"/>		12b	
		14 Other		12c	
				12d	

Dear Senator Manchin,

As West Virginia’s families start preparing for tax day, we want to call your attention to NiSource and the rest of the “dirty half dozen” multi-billion dollar corporations that do major business in the state, **yet paid NO federal income tax for two of the past four years.**

**We think it’s high time these companies – General Electric, AEP, DuPont, Verizon, First Energy and NiSource (and others) – start paying their fair share!**

Congress continues to debate cuts to social programs like Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, childcare and education – West Virginians NEED these programs fully funded. Are the citizens of this state expected to let more of our senior citizens go hungry, educate our children less and be unhealthier so that corporations like these can reap billions in profits without paying a cent in income taxes?

As you continue budget negotiations, we encourage you to raise more revenue by closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting tax breaks for the rich instead of severing lifelines to thousands of WV families just when they need it the most. It’s time that those who do well by our state do right by our citizens.

For a full report on US Corporations that exploit loopholes to avoid paying their fair share of income tax, please visit .

Signed, **West Virginia Citizen Action Group and Americans for Tax Fairness**

