

5 Minute Statement
Rep. Rich McCormick (GA-07)
“Ways and Means Member Day Hearing on Tax Policy”
Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. in 1100 Longworth HOB

[OPENING:]

- Thank you, Chairman Smith, for hosting today’s member day.
- It is time to unleash American economic prosperity after the last four years of high inflation and economic uncertainty.
- Our Nation’s tax code is a massive tool to drive that economic engine.
- With the impending lapse of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act tax provisions, Congress must make sure to extend these beneficial economic drivers.
- As a diverse body, we will not all agree fully with one another on policy, but we must find consensus.
- **Most Importantly - American innovation needs to be unshackled through the tax code.**
- I support policies that spur innovation, such as the Research and Development (R&D) tax credit and keeping corporate tax rates competitive here in the U.S. to prevent international “headquarter moves.”
- I support extending the 45X Advanced Manufacturing Production Tax Credit. Policies like the 45X tax credit are vitally important for our manufacturing industry's continued global competitiveness. Manufacturing companies, such as a battery manufacturer in my district, would benefit significantly as they compete against Chinese-made products.
- Tax incentives, not government hand-outs, should be our motto.
- These tax provisions will continue to drive our country towards being the number one economic power-house in the world and ensure Americans live in the new “Golden Era” President Trump promised us in his inaugural speech.
- **Additionally - Our tax code should be built on consistency.**

- This is why I share my concerns with this committee about the proposed State and Local Tax or **SALT provisions**. By its very nature, the SALT tax provisions LACK consistency on how they benefit certain states over other more fiscally conscious states.
- I insist we start addressing specifics immediately to find a path forward.
- Furthermore, I want to express to this committee that we need to **change how income is taxed** in our country. More people should be able to keep their hard-earned income in their pockets, not based on what type of employment, but on fair, consistent application.
- Military service members, teachers, firefighters, E.R. Techs, and law enforcement officers struggle to make ends meet just as much as tipped employees. Our tax code needs policies that are **CONSISTENT** and don't unfairly benefit one group of income earners over another.
- Although it may be a reach, this committee should work toward a fair income tax system.
- I want to work with this Committee to prevent the impending automatic cuts to Social Security and Medicare. If no course corrections are made, this will result in a 21 percent benefits cut to the main Social Security trust fund and an 11 percent cut to Medicare Hospital Insurance payments within the next 10 years.
- This will have disastrous consequences for our senior citizens. We need to address this pending crisis so current and near-future retirees are not adversely affected. Being timely would also allow those just entering working age to have time to plan accordingly.
- This committee has the opportunity to address waste, fraud, and abuse by working alongside President Donald Trump's Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

[CLOSING:]

- I look forward to working with this Committee to achieve these goals.
- Thank you again for allowing me to testify before you all today.