

**TESTIMONY OF EDWARD REHFELD**  
**BEFORE THE DC TAX REVISION COMMISSION**  
**June 24, 2013**

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today, and thank you for taking on the difficult task of recommending changes to the DC tax code.

My name is Ed Rehfeld, I have lived in the District of Columbia since 1987, and I am fortunate to be among the top 25% of wage earners in this city. I am concerned that as you consider changes to the tax code, you may make changes that would adversely affect me and people like me, and that would give me less reason to remain here as a resident.

Like anyone, I would welcome lower taxes. But my decision to remain in the District does not rest on taxes alone. It rests just as much on the quality of life that I enjoy here, and that might suffer if lowering taxes becomes the overarching goal of your work. I am concerned that focusing solely on lower taxes might reduce desperately needed revenue, and thus force cuts to services and critical investments. If that happens, far from retaining me as a resident, you might make me decide to leave. Let me cite just a few examples.

If lowering my taxes leads to a failure to invest in our infrastructure, our roads and bridges will suffer, and I might decide to leave.

If lowering my taxes triggers cuts to affordable housing programs, homelessness will increase, and I might decide to leave.

If lowering my taxes reduces support for police officers, firefighters, and EMTs, this city will feel less safe, and I may decide to leave.

If lowering my taxes hurts the city's ability to prepare for rainy days, this city's financial future will be weakened, and I may decide to leave.

Most of all, if you lower *my* taxes, but do little to reduce the tax burdens of those who make far less than I do, you will widen the gulf between rich and poor, and I may decide to leave.

I cherish and love this city. I do not see the taxes I pay as an unreasonable burden, but rather, as part of my civic duty to my city and my community. I appreciate your desire to ease that duty, but please do not do so at the expense of vital services and a more progressive tax code.

Thank you.

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