AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM

722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T: (202)785-0266

F:(202)785-0261

www.atr.org

September 27, 2010

Mr. Brooks Jackson
FactCheck.org
Annenberg Public Policy Center
320 National Press Building
Washington, D.C. 20045

Dear Mr. Jackson:

I write at your invitation in response to FactCheck.org's September 3, 2010 article ("2011 Tax Increases").

The basis for this article is "Six Months Until the Largest Tax Hikes in History," which is an original publication of Americans for Tax Reform and can be found on our website.

In our article, we repeatedly say that certain tax hikes "will" happen in January of 2011. The FactCheck.org article assumes that we mean this in a prescriptive or predictive sense. We do not. **When we make the statement "this tax will rise in January of 2011" (or words to that effect), we mean it only in the sense that if Congress and the President continue to fail to act, current law does indeed call for this tax hike to occur.**

It should be noted that this January 1, 2011 deadline has been in the law since 2001. Democrats have controlled Congress since 2007. They have controlled the White House since 2009. There has been ample opportunity for them to exempt households making less than $250,000 per year from scheduled tax hikes. Despite stated intentions to the contrary, they have never lifted a finger to do so. Widespread media reports this week indicate that Congress will adjourn for the year without having done so. They may do so in a lame duck session, but that would be a departure from four years of failed opportunities.

It should also be noted that several on the academic Left (most notably former OMB Director Peter Orzsag) have said that all the scheduled tax hikes should eventually happen, under the argument that government revenues are insufficient to pay for all the new government spending of the past several years. That argues against the "conventional wisdom" basis of FactCheck.org's article.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist