



November 16, 2012

Honorable Sander M. Levin
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2212

Dear Mr. Levin:

Thank you for your letter of November 15 seeking clarification of our decision to temporarily withdraw from our website the CRS Report, "Taxes and the Economy: An Economic Analysis of the Top Tax Rates Since 1945."

You inquire whether CRS was ever asked by staff of a congressional office to retract the report. As you can understand, we cannot reveal the details of meetings we have conducted with other congressional clients. Confidentiality is one of our core values and it is essential to the viability of our close, consultative relationships with all Members and staff. CRS has never withdrawn a report solely at the direction of a Member or staff of a congressional office. We weigh carefully comments from our clients concerning our products but the decision to revise a report or withdraw it from our website is ours alone. That was the case here.

The process of updating the report has begun. While we anticipate that the analysis will be available on our website shortly, I want to make sure that what we publish best serves the needs of Congress and informs the legislative debate.

Please let me know if you would like me to meet with you or your staff to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Mazanec
Director