

Find this letter online at: <http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/economists-support-fft/>

December 3, 2009

An Open Letter from Economists in Support of Financial Transaction Taxes

To Whom It May Concern:

A modest set of financial transaction taxes could raise a substantial amount of needed revenue while having little impact on trades that have a positive economic impact.

The cost of trading financial assets has plummeted over the last three decades as a result of computerization. This has led to an enormous explosion in trading volume, with most trades having little economic or social value and redistributing disproportionate resources to the financial sector. A set of modest financial transactions taxes, which would just raise trading costs back to the level of two or three decades ago, would have very limited impact on trades that have real economic value.

Such taxes could both reduce the volume of speculation in financial markets and provide substantial revenue for either important public purposes and/or deficit reduction. Financial transactions taxes could be an important part of a reform package that seeks to remake the financial sector so that it better serves the larger economy.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA

Sylvia A. Allegretto, University of California,
Berkeley
Clair Brown, University of California, Berkeley
Susan Carter, University of California, Riverside
Mussaddeq Chowdhury, University of Redlands
Bowman Cutter, Pomona College
James Devine, Loyola Marymount University
Maya Federman, Pitzer College
Michael Intriligator, UCLA
Dorene Isenberg, University of Redlands
Mark Maier, Glendale College
Daniel McFadden, *Nobel Laureate*, University
of California, Berkeley
Eric Nilsson, California State University San
Bernardino
Michael Perelman, California State University,
Chico
Michael Reich, University of California,
Berkeley
Nicholas Shunda, University of Redlands

Frank Stricker, CSU Dominguez Hills and CA
Faculty Union
Chris Tilly, UCLA

COLORADO

Elissa Braunstein, Colorado State University
P. Sai-wing Ho, University of Denver
Tracy Mott, University of Denver
Vince Snowberger
Yavuz Yasar, University of Denver
Michael Zimmerman, Colorado Public Utilities
Commission

CONNECTICUT

Jane D'Arista, Financial Markets Center
John Roemer, Yale University
Gil Skillman, Wesleyan University

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy
Research

Josh Bivens, Economic Policy Institute
Jeff Faux, Economic Policy Institute
Maria Floro, American University
Caren Grown, American University
Helene Jorgensen, Center for Economic and
Policy Research
William Kandel, Economic Research Service,
USDA
Hank Leland, Service Employees International
Union
Lawrence Mishel, Economic Policy Institute
David Rosnick, Center for Economic and Policy
Research
John Schmitt, Center for Economic and Policy
Research
Heidi Shierholz, Economic Policy Institute
Howard Wial, The Brookings Institution
John Willoughby, American University
Sheila Zedlewski, Income & Benefits Policy
Center
Mark Weisbrot, Center for Economic and Policy
Research

FLORIDA

Charles Rock, Rollins College

GEORGIA

Tanweer Akram

ILLINOIS

Ron Baiman, Center for Tax and Budget
Accountability
William Barclay, Chicago Political Economy
Group
Marianne Ferber, University of Illinois, Urbana-
Champaign
Paul Lockrd, Black Hawk College
Joseph Persky, University of Illinois at Chicago
Samuel Rosenberg, Roosevelt University

INDIANA

Charles Davis, Indiana University - Purdue
University
Amitava Dutt, University of Notre Dame
Mehrene Larudee, Earlham College
Jaime Ros, University of Notre Dame
Kellin Stanfield, DePauw University

IOWA

Peter Fisher, The Iowa Policy Project

KENTUCKY

Malcolm Robinson, Thomas More College

MAINE

Susan Feiner, Frances Perkins Center/USM
A. Myrick Freeman III, Bowdoin College
(Retired)
Michael Hillard, University of Southern Maine
Joseph Medley, University of Southern Maine
Michael Murray, Bates College
Bruce Roberts, University of Southern Maine
David Vail, Bowdoin College

MARYLAND

Gar Alperovitz, University of Maryland
Barbara Bergmann, University of Maryland
Jon Goldstein, GTBEconomics
Robert Lynch, Washington College

MASSACHUSETTS

Randy Albelda, University of Massachusetts
Boston
Michael Ash, University of Massachusetts
James Boyce, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst
Robert Buchele, Smith College
Jim Campen, Americans for Fairness in Lending
Jens Christiansen, Mount Holyoke College
Anita Dancs, Western New England College
Noah Enelow, Hampshire College
Gerald Epstein, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst
Gerald Friedman, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst
Carol E. Heim, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst
James Heintz, University of Massachusetts
Adam Hersh, University of Massachusetts
Arjun Jayadev, University of Massachusetts
Boston
J. K. Kapler, University of Massachusetts
Boston
Catherine Lynde, University of Massachusetts
Boston

Arthur MacEwan, University of Massachusetts
Boston

Julie Mattahei, Wellesley College

Kevin M McCarron

Michael Meeropol, Western New England
College

Julie Nelson, University of Massachusetts
Boston

Laurie Nisonoff, Hampshire College

Mary Orisich, Holyoke Community College

Karl Petrick, Western New England College

Martin Rapetti, University of Massachusetts

Joseph Ricciardi, Babson College

Helen Scharber, University of Massachusetts

Peter Skott, University of Massachusetts

Peter Spiegler, University of Massachusetts
Boston

David Terkla, University of Massachusetts
Boston

Jeannette Wicks-Lim, University of
Massachusetts, Amherst

Ben Zipperer, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst

MICHIGAN

David Arsen, Michigan State University

Jean Kimmel, Western Michigan University

Margaret Levenstein, University of Michigan

Hannah McKinney, Kalamazoo College

Kevin Murphy, Oakland University

Frank Thompson, University of Michigan

John Tower, Oakland University (Retired)

Thomas Weisskopf, University of Michigan

MINNESOTA

Cyrus Bina, University of Minnesota

Ann Markusen, University of Minnesota

NEW JERSEY

Eileen Appelbaum, Rutgers University

Douglas Kruse, Rutgers University

Michele Naples, The College of New Jersey

Cordelia Reimers, Hunter College, City
University of New York

Bernard Smith, Drew University

Paula Voos, Rutgers University

NEW YORK

Marcellus Andrews, Barnard College/Columbia
University

Nesecan Balkan, Hamilton College

Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University

Howard Botwinick, SUNY Cortland

Howard Chernick, Hunter College, City
University of New York

Kimberly Christensen, SUNY/Purchase College

Susan Davis, United University Professions

Gregory DeFreitas, Hofstra University

Chris Georges, Hamilton College

Teresa Ghilarducci, The New School

Robert Guttman, Hofstra University

Conrad Herold, Hofstra University

Leo Hindery, InterMedia Partners

David Howell, The New School

Douglas Koritz, Buffalo State College

Brent Kramer, City University of New York

Henry Levin, Columbia University

Thomas Masterson, Levy Economics Institute of
Bard College

Martin Melkonian, Hofstra University

Tom Michl, Colgate University

Basilio Monteiro, St. John's University

Jamee Moudud, Sarah Lawrence College

Pierre Ostiguy, Bard College

Aaron Pacitti, Siena College

James Parrott, Fiscal Policy Institute

Michael Pendleton, Buffalo State College

Marilyn Power, Sarah Lawrence College

John Roche, St John Fisher College

Frank Roosevelt, Sarah Lawrence College

John Sarich, Cooper Union

Ted Schmidt, SUNY College Buffalo

Sumitra Shah, St. John's University

Richard Shirey, Siena College

Dale Tussing, Syracuse University

Lucy Law Webster, Economists for Peace and
Security

David Weiman, Barnard College

June Zacccone, Hofstra University

NORTH CAROLINA

Stephen Holland, University of North Carolina
at Greensboro

Victor Schoenbach, University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill

OHIO

Rudy Fichtenbaum, Wright State University
Susan Helper, Case Western Reserve University
Paulette Olson, Wright State University
Jeffrey Stewart, University of Cincinnati

OREGON

John Gallup, Portland State University
John Hall, Portland State University
Mary King, Portland State University
Leopoldo Rodriguez, Portland State University
Mark Thoma, University of Oregon
John Walker, Portland State University

PENNSYLVANIA

Nina Banks, Bucknell University
Chuck Barone, Dickinson College
Roger Bove, West Chester University (retired)
Lonnie Golden, Penn State
Michael Moohr, Bucknell University
Mark Price, Keystone Research Center
Sanford Schram, Bryn Mawr College
Jean Shackelford, Bucknell University
John Zink, Franklin and Marshall College

TENNESSEE

Green Ekadi, Meharry Medical College

TEXAS

James Galbraith, University of Texas

UTAH

Jean Arment, University of Utah
Gunseli Berik, University of Utah
Gail Blattenberger, University of Utah
Al Campbell, University of Utah
Nathaniel Cline, University of Utah
Brian England, University of Utah

Peter Philips, University of Utah
Matias Vernengo, University of Utah
Adam Vester, University of Utah

VERMONT

Peter Hans Matthews, Middlebury College
Elaine McCrate, University of Vermont
Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont
Jim Tober, Marlboro College

WASHINGTON

Peter Dorman, Evergreen State College
Timothy Payne, Shoreline Community College
Diana Pearce, University of Washington
Robert Plotnick, University of Washington
Marjolein van der Veen, Bellevue College

WISCONSIN

James Carpenter, Milwaukee Area Technical
College
Martin David, University of Wisconsin-Madison
(Emeritus)
Cheryl Maranto, Marquette University
Marcelo Milan, University of Wisconsin-
Parkside
Michael Rosen, Milwaukee Area Technical
College
Matt Vidal, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Don Weimer, Milwaukee Area Technical
College

ABROAD

Gustavo Indart, University of Toronto
Siobhan McGrath, University of Manchester,
UK
Robert Waldmann, Universita di Roma "Tor
Vergata"
Roger Wilkins, Melbourne Institute

Organizations listed for identification purposes only.