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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Brian Ellis *B7c*
DATE: September 22, 2011
SUBJECT: Tax Credit Reporting Legislation

In the near future I plan to introduce legislation that would provide for an annual, consolidated report of all tax credits claimed each fiscal year.

Currently, unless the statute providing for a tax credit specifically includes a reporting requirement, information such as the identity of each taxpayer receiving the credit, the amount of the credit, and the purpose or program for which it was approved remains confidential. Though some tax credits do have reporting requirements, the information provided varies by credit and several credits contain no reporting requirement at all.

There is no good policy reason for such inconsistent treatment. Rather, the seemingly arbitrary differences are largely the result of evolving attitudes regarding the public's right to information, with older credits being less likely to contain reporting requirements. This situation makes it difficult to evaluate the efficacy of the various programs and impedes the implementation of responsive and productive tax policy.

A consolidated, comprehensive annual report will provide much needed consistency and transparency. If you are interested in joining me as a co-sponsor of this legislation please contact Bethann Gebhart at bgebhart@pahousegop.com.