

...there were a couple articles that were worth a read today:

USA Today's editorial stated that the taxcode was "[too complicated, too costly, too unfair](#) :"

*What is needed is a dramatic simplification of the tax code followed by a newfound commitment of Congress and presidents to leave it alone. A tall order, to be sure, from a Congress that hasn't even tried to simplify taxes since 1986 and then soon messed up all it had accomplished. But Obama was elected on themes of hope and change. We hope he can change the tax code.*

*Such a code might retain the EITC and deductions for charitable giving, and direct deposits into retirement and education savings accounts - and little else by way of deductions and credits. If that were done, abolishing the abomination that is the Alternative Minimum Tax would be much easier. Created to make sure the very richest Americans couldn't escape taxes, it now demands more labor from many others who qualify for too many of the deductions and credits in the main code.*

*While lawmakers are at it, they should greatly simplify the corporate tax code. Doing so would allow companies to focus more on their core businesses and less on tax avoidance.*

*It would also eliminate a significant portion of the insidious self-reinforcing games played by business interest groups and the lawmakers who want their money.*

*Tax simplification would make life for all much easier in the days leading up to April 15. Taxpayers would gain money and time, which they could turn to more productive pursuits. Perhaps in plastics.*

And in today's *Wall Street Journal*, Nina Olson, the national taxpayer advocate at the IRS, agrees that "[we still need a simpler tax code](#) :"

*In developing a comprehensive tax reform blueprint, I recommend that emphasis be given to six core principles. First, the tax system should not be so complex as to create traps for the unwary. Second, the tax laws should be simple enough so that most taxpayers can prepare their own returns and compute their tax liabilities on a single form, and simple enough so that IRS telephone assistants can accurately answer taxpayers' questions. Third, the tax laws should*

*anticipate the largest areas of noncompliance and minimize the opportunities for such noncompliance. Fourth, the tax laws should provide some choices, but not too many, since choices are confusing and can lead to taxpayer error. Fifth, where the tax laws provide for refundable credits, they should be designed in a way that is minimally burdensome both for the taxpayers claiming the credits and for the IRS in administering them. And last, the tax system should incorporate a periodic review of the tax code -- a sanity check to guard against complexity creep.*

*Tax simplification would benefit all Americans, regardless of political party. An advisory panel appointed by the Bush administration produced a comprehensive report on tax simplification in 2005, and I am pleased to see that the Obama administration is forming a new task force to make recommendations later this year. Clearly, there is no absence of good ideas. What we need now is the will to act.*

Congressman Pence [has noted](#) that the President's budget, passed despite [bipartisan opposition](#), taxes too much.