

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1676

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for taxpayers making donations with their returns of income tax to the Federal Government to pay down the public debt.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 2011

Mr. THUNE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for taxpayers making donations with their returns of income tax to the Federal Government to pay down the public debt.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Buffett Rule Act of
5 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. DONATION TO PAY DOWN NATIONAL DEBT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 61 of the
3 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at
4 the end the following new part:

5 **“PART IX—DONATIONS TO PAY DOWN NATIONAL**
6 **DEBT**

“Sec. 6097. Donation to pay down national debt.

7 **“SEC. 6097. DONATION TO PAY DOWN NATIONAL DEBT.**

8 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—Every taxpayer who makes a
9 return of the tax imposed by subtitle A for any taxable
10 year may donate an amount (not less than \$1), in addition
11 to any payment of tax for such taxable year, which shall
12 be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

13 “(b) MANNER AND TIME OF DESIGNATION.—Any do-
14 nation under subsection (a) for any taxable year—

15 “(1) shall be made at the time of filing the re-
16 turn of the tax imposed by subtitle A for such tax-
17 able year and in such manner as the Secretary may
18 by regulation prescribe, except that—

19 “(A) the designation for such donation
20 shall be either on the first page of the return
21 or on the page bearing the taxpayer’s signature,
22 and

23 “(B) the designation shall be by a box
24 added to the return, and the text beside the box
25 shall provide:

“By checking here, I signify that in addition to my tax liability, I would like to donate the included payment to be used exclusively for the purpose of paying down the national debt.”,

1 and

2 “(2) shall be accompanied by a payment of the
3 amount so designated.

4 “(c) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS DONATED.—For pur-
5 poses of this title, the amount donated by any taxpayer
6 under subsection (a) shall be treated as a contribution
7 made by such taxpayer to the United States on the last
8 date prescribed for filing the return of tax imposed by sub-
9 title A (determined without regard to extensions) or, if
10 later, the date the return is filed.

11 “(d) TRANSFERS TO ACCOUNT TO REDUCE PUBLIC
12 DEBT.—The Secretary shall, from time to time, transfer
13 to the special account established by section 3113(d) of
14 title 31, United States Code, amounts equal to the
15 amounts donated under this section.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of parts for
17 subchapter A of such chapter is amended by adding at
18 the end the following new item:

“PART IX. DONATIONS TO PAY DOWN NATIONAL DEBT”.

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 this section shall apply to returns for taxable years ending
21 after December 31, 2010.

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