

Letter from Larry Helminiak  
SCBA Board Member and Government Affairs Chairperson

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To all members of SCBA:

ESTONIA

A few years ago I was able to take a Baltic Cruise with the Young America Foundation. There were 100 of us on the trip.

One of the stops was the country of Estonia. Estonia was under Russian control until just a few years ago. Suddenly, with little notice, Russia decided to leave Estonia. The first president in a free Estonia was a gentlemen named Mart Larr. Because we were from the Young America Foundation, we were able to get a meeting with him. He made a speech where he said that he had to come up with a quick way to raise taxes. He wanted to be fair and he wanted it to be simple. He concluded that the fairest way to tax was to have the SAME TAX on EVERYONE. He came up with the number of 23%. NO one was exempt. The richest paid 23% and the poorest paid 23%.

Corporations were to pay NO TAX.

The idea went over so well that companies came from all over the world to start branches in Estonia. As a result, Estonia became the fastest growing economy in Europe.

It worked so well that, not only was Estonia able to KEEP the 23% level; but later REDUCED it to 22%, where it stays today.

What a novel idea. Maybe our country could consider this.

Sincerely,

*Larry*

Larry Helminiak, SCBA Board Member and Government Affairs Chairperson