

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, ZIP _____

Date: _____

Congressman Paul Tonko
61 Columbia Street, 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Congressman Tonko,

I'm writing today to ask for your support of the Peace Tax, formally known as **H.R. 2483, The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill**. The bill's co-sponsor in the House is Rep. John Lewis.

Passage of this bill is necessary because over 50% of federal income tax dollars are conscripted for the purpose of war and paying the debt on past wars. People whose consciences dictate that they not participate in war find this deeply disturbing. It puts our deeply held beliefs about loving our enemies and doing good to those who harm us (Luke 6:27-35) in direct conflict with the tax laws of our government. In a country founded on religious freedom no person should have to make this choice.

As a member of Congress, one of your roles is to control government spending. However, Congress has not provided much restraint over military spending. Over the last 13 years of war the US initiated in the Middle East, the American people have spent in excess of 3 Trillion dollars (<http://threetrilliondollarwar.org>) and this spending is destroying our economy and shattering lives. (by some estimates over a million, but at least 600,000 - either way a staggering loss of life <http://web.mit.edu/humancostiraq>)

As a person who believes deeply in the Quaker value of peace, I see that war, seldom if ever, resolves conflicts and often leaves people associated with war traumatized. War also creates debt from the misuse of resources that could and should be used for healing societies and furthering cooperation among nations.

I ask that you support H.R. 2483 to allow people of faith to pay their taxes and support the nation in a way that does not conflict with their values.

Sincerely yours,
