

Your political representative,  
Your Parliament/Congress  
Location  
Date

*(please adapt text if you wish)*

Dear.....

As someone who is deeply concerned about the state of the world today, I support the global call for a currency transactions (Tobin) tax on currency speculation. I would like to know where you stand on this issue.

I am sure that you know that up to \$1.8 trillion is traded every day on the world's foreign exchange markets, and that 95% of this is unproductive gambling known as currency speculation. Such speculation causes wild swing in financial markets that can cripple the economies of developing countries with particularly devastating impacts on the poor.

The Tobin tax is not a new idea - it has been around for quarter of a century and its architect was awarded a Nobel prize for his work. This small tax on unproductive currency transactions would not only calm markets but would also generate enormous revenue to help alleviate poverty globally. The original proposal has been revised in recent years to respond to critics who argue the tax is too difficult to do or easy to evade.

The tax is workable and it is needed now. We have witnessed the enormous human cost of financial crises globally over the last decade and there is no end in sight.

The Tobin tax has received the support of the various political bodies including the Canadian Parliament, the French National Assembly, the German Economic Cooperation and Development Ministry and a host of other political parties around the world. The tax is being or has been studied at the European Union, the United Nations, and by many countries.

I hope that you will join with me and call on *(name of leader of government)* to take a lead on this issue. A strong case must be made for all countries to adopt this tax in the interest of economic stability and development.

Yours sincerely,

**TEXT ADAPTED FROM WAR ON WANT**