

## **Rekindling Neighborhood Business with the FairTax**

**Rodger Gamblin**

**July 10, 2009**

In America, neighborhood businesses are dying.

Before the income tax, most retail was done by small neighborhood shops backed by larger wholesalers that helped with purchasing, storage, and supply. The system was efficient, personal, and responsive to the individual. Neighborhood business owners were busy, with customers to attend to, inventory to select and order, facilities to keep clean and ordered, packages to wrap, and a thousand other things to do. But there usually was family to help out, and, if successful, friends or neighbors hired to accomplish many of the necessary tasks.

Generally, all accounting used a cash register. A sale, if subject to a sales tax, was so marked by the register, as was the inventory number. Cash, checks, and so forth were collected and bundled at the end of the day and taken to the bank. There, the due tax was noted and at regular intervals sent to the State. Employees were paid out of the cash register and a record of the payment made. Other expenses were treated likewise. There was time to run the business, and so it was done all over the United States

With the income tax, matters are much more complicated. So complicated is the paper overhead presently demanded by the State that most neighborhood businesses cannot carry the load and be competitive. The loss to our Society is great. Neighborhoods are less cohesive. Employment at the local level is lost. Individuals have less say about or interest in their communities. And neighbors, instead of helping one another, turn hostile. It is easier to rob the 7/11 chain than one's uncle or friend.

The FairTax is the solution. It has the simplicity required to again allow neighborhood business to function competitively all over the country. It helps put the personal back in our lives, and it reduces the power of all government to regulate and control. It is a step toward those things so many say they wish for.