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**From:** sarah peck <sarahpeckesq@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:20 AM  
**To:** Haley, Nikki; sarah peck  
**Subject:** Request from an active-duty foreign service officer

Dear Governor Haley,

Congratulations on your nomination to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations!

I am a U.S. foreign service officer currently serving in Paris, France. I have previously served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and worked on Pakistan issues that required me to spend time in that country.

I recently purchased a home in Columbia, SC, my childhood home. This home will be my primary residence (I have no other home). I plan to change my domicile to South Carolina, register to vote, get a drivers license, and pay SC state income tax.

In the process of buying the home I discovered there is a 4% tax rate for owner-occupied homes, and also a 4% special assessment for active duty military. However, as you may know, the rate is 6% for non-owner occupied housing. In my case, the tax rate \$6k a year more than the owner-occupied rate. That is quite a financial burden for a government employee saving for her retirement.

As the Congressional Record (link below) explains with respect to the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003, both military officers and foreign service officers are considered to be using their home as their main residence for any period that they are assigned overseas. In the Foreign Service, I must pay state income taxes, and am eligible for in-state tuition and other state benefits, even when I am serving overseas.

And now South Carolina is my home. My house is my main residence. As a foreign service officer currently serving under PCS orders overseas, I am writing to request that you introduce a bill that would make foreign service families eligible for the same 4% rate offered to South Carolina's military families. I expect that the cost to the State would be minimal, as I am sure only a few Foreign Service officers claim South Carolina as their home (we are a small service!)

More importantly, applying the same standard to active duty military and foreign service officers recognizes the service and sacrifices that both services make for their country.

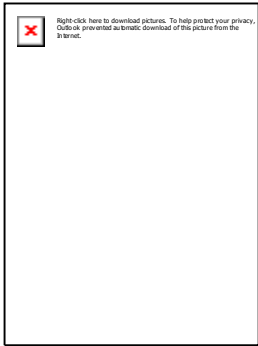
Thank you,

Sarah

*Sarah C. Peck*  
*Premier Secrétaire, Affaires Politiques*  
*Ambassade des Etats-Unis, Paris*  
*Tel: 01 43 12 26 14*

Excerpt from the Congressional Record:

[https://books.google.fr/books?id=k7dKHW9trqIC&pg=PA11574&lpg=PA11574&dq=military+families+tax+relief+act+apply+to+foreign+service+officers&source=bl&ots=8ifrMfQrfq&sig=1o2EXMdeqxPZB\\_GYBtHIAzlQB7Q&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjJ0oW7prvRAhVRIFAKHQibCD8Q6AEIJTAE#v=onepage&q=military%20families%20tax%20relief%20act%20apply%20to%20foreign%20service%20officers&f=false](https://books.google.fr/books?id=k7dKHW9trqIC&pg=PA11574&lpg=PA11574&dq=military+families+tax+relief+act+apply+to+foreign+service+officers&source=bl&ots=8ifrMfQrfq&sig=1o2EXMdeqxPZB_GYBtHIAzlQB7Q&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjJ0oW7prvRAhVRIFAKHQibCD8Q6AEIJTAE#v=onepage&q=military%20families%20tax%20relief%20act%20apply%20to%20foreign%20service%20officers&f=false)



## Congressional Record, V. 149, PT. 9, May 14, 2003 to May 21, 2003

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