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THE TAX LAWYER

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### Fiscal Cliff In Verse

Can't we solve the fiscal cliff?  
Be more malleable, not so stiff?  
Can't the parties get along?  
Play together, sing a song?  
Left and Right please strike a deal!  
Maybe even share a meal?

The economy? It's very soft;  
Can't we get it back aloft?  
Rodney King, he had it right;  
Can't keep sniping, stop the fight!  
Surely Congress is just as smart;  
Surely finance isn't art!

Yet Congress spins, is quite malaised;  
Frenzied meetings, bruised and  
dazed.

We voted for them, liked their nerve;  
But now it seems they've little verve.  
This isn't Greece, or even Spain!  
Can't you save us from this pain?

We need to know our new tax rate!  
Can't we know? What is our fate?  
It's more than taxes, spending too!  
What would D.C. have us do?



Protest some more or write a letter?  
Ask for Congress to be better?

And what of all the older people?  
No longer can they jump this steeple!  
Gran and gramps are not on twitter!  
They've little money and none to fritter!  
They worry over Medicare!  
Cut it back? Oh don't you dare!

Other cuts are also coming!  
The welfare state? Not cool running!  
Tax rates will soar, will climb up high;  
Like a bird up in the sky.  
While rates scoot skyward, coffers fill;  
Then the pols can man the till.

But can't we save our ship, our boat?  
Make it right, make it float?  
We used to know our cash was green;  
Now we spend it sight unseen!  
No more IOU's we fear!  
For our debt ceiling is also near!

No more time, it will expire.  
We're coming right down to the wire.  
As New Year's Day dawns very soon;  
We rue the daylight, fear High Noon.  
Please Oh Please, we sigh and sob!  
Congress please just do your job!

*Robert W. Wood practices law with [Wood LLP](#), in San Francisco. The author of more than 30 books, including *Taxation of Damage Awards & Settlement Payments* (4th Ed. 2009 with 2012 Supplement, [Tax InSTITUTE](#)), he can be reached at [Wood@WoodLLP.com](mailto:Wood@WoodLLP.com). This discussion is not intended as legal advice, and cannot be relied upon for any purpose without the services of a qualified professional.*