



Robert W. Wood

THE TAX LAWYER

Mar. 10 2012 — 6:40 am

Taxes And The Art Of Mustache Maintenance

We Americans do like to tinker with our tax laws. Last year, I reported on a bill to provide tax breaks for facial hair aptly named the STACHE Act: the [Stimulus To Allow Critical Hair Expenses](#). See [Would Mustache Tax Be Better Than 9-9-9?](#) Professor [John Yeutter](#) and the [American Mustache Institute](#) proposed it, and this story won't die.

If enacted, it would provide a \$250 annual tax incentive for mustached Americans. Yeutter (who sports a [handlebar](#)) is an Associate Professor of Accounting and Tax Policy at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He authored "[Mustached Americans And the Triple Bottom Line](#)."

Since mustached Americans make more money, they should get a tax break for their mustaches, he argues. It was written in good fun, but if you think this sounds silly, you haven't read too many tax bills.

Yeutter claims the costs of maintenance (think trimming and grooming) should be deductible under Internal Revenue Code [Section 212](#). The



STACHE Act would offer a \$250 deduction for mustache grooming in determining [adjusted gross income](#). You would not have to itemize to claim this deduction, elevating the mustache above such items as attorney fees which land thousands in the [alternative minimum tax](#). See [AMT Problems For Attorney Fees Remain](#).



Organizers now plan The Million Mustache March for the STACHE Act (see [the news conference here](#)). Take a look at [StacheAct.com](#), which redirects to an application on H&R Block's Facebook page where you can adorn your photo with a past presidential

mustache. Want something less sedentary?

How about marching from the U.S. Capitol to the White House? See details of the march [here](#). It's set for April 1—yes, April Fools' Day. H&R Block is behind the campaign offering to donate money to [Millions From One](#), which delivers clean drinking water to those in need.

For more coverage of the announcement see [Yahoo Politics](#), [ABC News](#) and [FOX News](#), as well as Capitol Hill media like *Roll Call* and *The Hill*.

For more, see:

[STACHE Act: The Mustached American Tax Incentive](#)

[Do Men With Mustaches Deserve A Tax Break?](#)

[Unusual Tax Breaks](#)

[Avoid IRS Audit Triggers](#)

[Claiming Tax Deductions For Clothing?](#)

[Burn Baby Burn \(But Don't Deduct\)](#)

[What Triggers IRS Statute Of Limitations?](#)

*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](mailto:Wood@WoodLLP.com)), he can be reached at 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.