



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist

President

April 15, 2004

Dear Pledge Signer,

With the special session on public school finance reform coming up soon, I write to encourage you to keep up the good work and stay true to the commitment you made to Texan taxpayers by signing the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. The Taxpayers of Texas can consider themselves lucky to have elected officials like you, who stand up for their interests.

At the federal level, the Pledge has become the most effective tool to keep taxes low, and to slow the growth of government. At the state level, its importance is increasing steadily. Signers of the Pledge are in good company: President Bush has signed the Pledge, and in so doing he has joined 42 U.S. Senators, 216 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, nine Governors, four Lieutenant Governors, two Attorneys General, four Secretaries of State, four Treasurers, and 1224 state legislators.

As education funding reform proposals circulate, you should be happy to note that you have at least 39 steadfast allies in keeping your Pledge to your constituents – they made the same commitment you did to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.” Having run for election or re-election on the basis of this Pledge, they are bound to oppose any net tax increase. Luckily, even a Pledge made years ago is still valid.

The Pledge is designed to accommodate revenue-neutral tax reform. Improvements in the tax code are always encouraged, as long as the net tax burden does not increase. Gov. Perry has assured me he intends his proposal to be revenue neutral.

Americans for Tax Reform stands ready to assist you in crafting a reform that does not violate the Pledge taken by you and 39 other Texan legislators (Find a list below). We have economists on staff to help with the technical details, and media professionals to help get the right message out. Please do not hesitate to call on me for assistance.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist

The following Texas legislators have taken the Pledge:

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Todd Staples (S-3) | 11. Gene Seaman (H-32) | 21. Myra Crownover (H-64) | 31. Fred Hill (H-112) |
| 2. Tommy Williams (S-4) | 12. Edmund Kuempel (H-44) | 22. Jerry Madden (H-67) | 32. Will Harnett (H-114) |
| 3. Chris Harris (S-9) | 13. Todd Baxter (H-48) | 23. Scott Campbell (H-72) | 33. Ken Marchant (H-115) |
| 4. Kyle Janek (S-17) | 14. Mike Krusee (H-52) | 24. Tom Craddick (H-82) | 34. Frank Corte (H-122) |
| 5. Dan Flynn (H-2) | 15. Harvey Hilderbran (H-53) | 25. Carl Isett (H-84) | 35. Joe Nixon (H-133) |
| 6. Leo Berman (H-6) | 16. Dianne White Delisi (H-55) | 26. John Smithee (H-86) | 36. Martha Wong (H-134) |
| 7. Fred Brown (H-14) | 17. Arlene Wohlgemuth (H-58) | 27. Kent Grusendorf (H-94) | 37. Gary Elkins (H-135) |
| 8. Larry Taylor (H-24) | 18. Jim Keffer (H-60) | 28. Bill Zedler (H-96) | 38. Dwayne Bohac (H-138) |
| 9. Charlie Howard (H-26) | 19. Phil King (H-61) | 29. Elvira Reyna (H-101) | 39. Robert Talton (H-144) |
| 10. Glenn Hegar (H-28) | 20. Ron Clark (H-62) | 30. Bill Keffer (H-107) | 40. Talmadge Heflin (H-149) |

