



# NEWS

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## **Gov. Benson Committed to Keeping New Hampshire at the Forefront of Competitive States**

*Once again, Gov. Benson rules out tax increases.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Across the nation, states’ economies – and revenues – are turning up, lessening the budget pains many have faced. Yet, despite the improving budget picture, many states are seeking tax increases to boost spending levels.

The big-spending interests in states such as Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, Michigan, Maine, and Washington are pushing for major tax increases in order to fund large increases in spending (over 20% in the coming biennium in Virginia, for example). But Gov. Craig Benson (R) continues to defend New Hampshire’s competitiveness – “I continue to say we don't need taxes or tax increases,” he told the Associated Press.

**“The last 20 years have seen a massive migration of jobs and wealth from high tax states to low tax states,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“High taxes and high regulation have driven companies and knowledge workers in search of freer, more profitable homes. Tax-raising states such as Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, and Michigan are making their businesses less competitive and endangering workers’ jobs. Gov. Benson is defending New Hampshire’s economy by his refusal to raise taxes.”**

Gov. Benson joined such pro-growth governors as Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, Rick Perry of Texas, Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, Jeb Bush of Florida, and Bill Owens of Colorado in balancing the budget last year without a tax hike. This year, despite improving revenue and budget forecasts, some in New Hampshire are proposing increases in the death tax and tobacco taxes.

**“The death tax destroys small businesses, which create 75% of new jobs in the country,”** continued Norquist. **“And tobacco taxes hurt retailers and hit lower income people hardest. Craig Benson is right to protect the competitiveness of New Hampshire’s businesses and workers against further raids by the big-spenders in Concord!”**

*Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [jcollegio@atr.org](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org).*