



Grover G. Norquist

President

December 10, 2004

Dear Kentucky legislator:

I am writing to urge you to support honest tax reform and resist efforts to use the coming tax reform debate as a cover for raising taxes.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher advanced the cause of fundamental tax reform in Kentucky by proposing a detailed plan to simplify and modernize the tax code. While I do not agree with every policy choice he has included in his plan, a thorough tax reform could free private activity and make Kentucky more competitive in the 21st century economy. Gov. Fletcher deserves praise for his boldness.

However, a danger is present at this time of opportunity. In my years of promoting tax reform in Congress and in all 50 states, I have watched repeatedly as good proposals have been undermined during the legislative process. Inevitably, pressure will mount to raise taxes in order to buy support for reform, or complex changes to the tax code bring in more revenue than is cut in other parts of the code.

The best way to stop tax reform from turning into an unstoppable tax increase is to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. Since 1986, the Pledge has been the single best way to demonstrate that you stand with the hard-working families you represent over the big-spenders. It is a statement of principle that you believe government should impose no more burdens on families and businesses than it already does.

Soon, the big spenders will ask you again to support a version of tax reform that results in a net increase in tax revenue. They may try to tell you that no one will notice the tax hike because it is buried in a complicated reform. Or they may tell you that more revenue is the price you have to pay for reform. Either way, supporting such a tax increase is betraying your constituents to fund the growth of government.

I urge you to take this option off the table by signing the enclosed Pledge. The Pledge allows a wide latitude of tax changes to achieve political goals such as economic growth, **as long as overall tax revenue does not rise**. Signing will insulate you from political pressure, and will put you on the winning side of electoral trends.

And signing the Pledge puts you in good company – President Bush, 46 U.S. Senators (including Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning), 222 Congressmen (including Ed Whitfield, Ron Lewis, Anne Northup, Ken Lucas, and Ben Chandler), and over 1240 state legislators have signed. **Return your signed Pledge to me, and I will communicate to local and national media that you have committed to pro-growth tax reform without a tax increase.**

Sincerely,



Grover G. Norquist