



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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16 JULY 2004

## Fact of the Day #2: Sen. Joey Brush Threatens GA Jobs and Businesses

*--Brush's tax-raising record puts jobs in danger--*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In 1997, Sen. Joey Brush (R-Martinez) made a commitment to his constituents to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes” by signing the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. He broke his promise in April of 2003 by voting for a \$180 million tax increase (V0610, HB 43, April 25, 2003).

Sen. Brush's tax-and-spend record may have serious implications for businesses in the state of Georgia:

- **Raising income taxes** – most small businesses pay the personal income tax rate. Since small businesses create 75% of all new jobs, and hire disproportionately poorer and minority workers, higher income taxes would threaten job creation.
- **Raising gasoline taxes** – raises the cost of every good transported within the state, raising the cost of living for all families. Also raises the cost of all goods transported out of the state, hurting the competitiveness of South Carolina producers.
- **Raising tobacco taxes** – many small retailers are dependent upon tobacco sales to stay in business, threatening the jobs of thousands of workers in the retail industry. In addition, tobacco taxes fall most heavily on those least able to afford them.
- **Raising alcohol taxes** – the hospitality industry depends on beer, wine, and spirits sales to stay in business. Higher alcohol taxes threaten the jobs of those who work in bars, restaurants, hotels, etc.
- **Raising death taxes** – destroys family farms and small businesses.

**“Tax increases for the state of Georgia would place thousands of jobs and businesses in harms’ way. It is common knowledge that tax increases deter job growth, yet, according to his voting record, Sen. Brush doesn’t seem to understand that,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Sen. Brush put his commitment to keep taxes low in writing. By breaking that commitment, he has betrayed the trust of the people of Georgia and opened the door to harming Georgia businesses.”**

*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).*