



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2004**

**CONTACT: Chris Butler
Jesse R. Benton
202-785-0266**

Tony Knowles Threatens Middle Class Taxpayers

Candidate's plan to raise taxes on the "rich" would harm families, small business owners

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Alaska Senate Candidate Tony Knowles is putting middle class taxpayers in danger. The Kerry-Edwards Campaign platform, which Knowles has failed to distance himself from, would roll back tax cuts on the "rich." Such a tax hike, however, would affect not only wealthy Americans, but would also quietly include scores of middle class taxpayers.

Knowles and his liberal allies would raise the top two income tax brackets to former levels. The top bracket is for incomes of over \$200,000 per year, but the second highest bracket has a threshold of \$147,000. Hiking the second rate would dramatically raise taxes for many married middle class couples, entrepreneurs and small businesses owners.

"A family with children, faced with today's housing prices, exploding insurance premiums and the ever growing cost of a college education, simply cannot afford a tax hike," said ATR President Grover Norquist. **"Tony Knowles wants to destroy the tax relief President Bush fought to give scores of hardworking Americans."**

Knowles's tax hikes would not only hurt families, but would stifle small businesses run by sole proprietors. President Bush's tax cuts helped many small business owners to either weather the recession or get their feet off the ground. Raising taxes could put many owners out of business.

"How can Tony Knowles say he supports small business and middle class families when he is trying to stick them with a huge tax hike?" continued Norquist. **"President Bush's tax cuts must be made permanent and must be protected from liberals like Tony Knowles."**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at cbutler@atr.org.