



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Alaska Legislators Named to Taxpayers’ “Hall of Shame”

Sens. John Cowdery and Fred Dyson, and Rep. Norm Rokeberg violated Pledge not to raise taxes.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation’s leading taxpayer advocacy group, has named Alaska state Senators John Cowdery and Fred Dyson, as well as state Representative Norm Rokeberg to its **“Hall of Shame”** for violating a commitment made to the taxpayers of the state.

Since 1986, officials across the country have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a written commitment to **“oppose and vote against/veto any and all efforts to increase taxes.”** Currently, President Bush, 42 U.S. Senators, 218 Congressmen, eight governors, and more than 1320 state legislators have signed the Pledge.

“Signing the Pledge is the single most important step a candidate or incumbent can take to demonstrate his or her commitment to taxpayers’ interests,” said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **“It is a commitment to the people of Alaska to protect their wallets against raids by the big-spenders in Juneau. Breaking the Pledge by voting to raise taxes is a betrayal of that commitment, and it reveals an official’s anti-tax stand to be little more than election year grandstanding.”**

Sen. Dyson voted for two bills that contained a tobacco tax increase (SB 368, SB 1001), Sen. Cowdery voted for the tobacco tax increase included in SB 368, and Rep. Rokeberg voted for the tobacco tax increase in SB 1001.

The following Pledge signers honored their commitment in 2004:

1. Lyda N. Green (S-G)
2. Jim Holm (H-9)
3. Vic Kohring (H-14)

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 Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at cbutler@atr.org.

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