



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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May 6, 2004

Hon. Craig Benson
107 North Main Street
Room 208
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Gov. Benson,

I am writing to show my support of your policies and commend your diligent efforts in defending the taxpayers of New Hampshire. I have supported the vital role that you played in driving the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) and vetoing any efforts by the legislature to increase taxes and implement uncontrolled spending. For these reasons we have twice named you "the hero of the taxpayer."

In addition, I commend you for your diligence in fighting to protect the hard-working people of New Hampshire from unnecessary burdens by taxation. Your actions exemplify how a Taxpayer Protection Pledge signer should act to fulfill their role in "opposing any and all efforts to increase taxes." I know that your leadership has been the basis for New Hampshire's economic prosperity.

However, I was concerned to hear rumors that you might consider a death tax increase that legislators are pursuing. Any compromise to allow a death tax increase to pass will be detrimental to New Hampshire. Death taxes kill small businesses, which generate 75% of new jobs in the country.

This tax is deceptive in the amount of people it will affect. Many middle class families of New Hampshire will be burdened by this tax in the future. As the alternative minimum tax and the income tax similarly started off targeting a particular group, they eventually engulfed the mainstream public burdening an enormous amount of citizens in the country. Passing this tax can lead to similar results for the people of New Hampshire. If this tax is passed, another problem that it faces is that eager legislators will add other tax proposals to it, in an effort to appease their constituents by increasing spending at the cost of the taxpayers. This tax will be a vehicle by which irresponsible legislators can allow their self-serving agendas to place more burdens on the families and businesses of New Hampshire. I urge you to veto this death tax should it reach your desk.

I stand ready to assist you as you oppose this unwise tax. Please do not hesitate to call on me for assistance.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist