



# NEWS

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## **Alaska Lawmakers Want Oil Tax Increase, Despite \$28 Billion Permanent Fund**

*-- Six legislators want oil tax increase to be included in upcoming special session --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With Alaska’s special legislative session to begin next month, six lawmakers want a raise in oil tax to be among the topics considered.

The possible tax increase would cure budget problems, lawmakers say. However, they make no mention of Alaska’s 28 billion dollar Permanent Fund, which is made up of oil tax revenues. Instead of raising taxes, Governor Frank Murkowski (R) hopes to devise a spending policy for the Permanent Fund in order to fix the state’s budget woes.

**“Alaska has 28 billion dollars in a fund that is going unused,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Instead of putting that money towards fiscal responsibility, these lawmakers are choosing to burden an industry that is vital for the people of Alaska.”**

Senator Hollis French (D-Anchorage) and Representative Les Gara (D-Anchorage) introduced the legislation which would revamp the state’s oil tax structure to allow the state to reap more of the profit when oil prices are high. Also putting their names in support of the tax increase are Senator Kim Elton (D-Juneau) and Representatives Eric Croft (D-Anchorage), David Guttenberg (D-Fairbanks), and Beth Kerttula (D-Juneau). Gov. Murkowski, however, does not feel that it is appropriate to consider an increase in the oil tax during the special session. Instead, he hopes to investigate the possibility of delving into the 28 billion dollar Permanent Fund as an alternative solution to the budget crisis.

**“Governor Murkowski is doing the right thing by exploring non-tax alternatives to solve Alaska’s budget dilemma,”** continued Norquist. **“His leadership will protect the jobs and businesses of the people of Alaska.”**

*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).*