



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Clark Bisbee Named Hero of the Taxpayer

*-- House Commerce Committee Chairman stands up for taxpayers' interests --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Clark Bisbee (R-Jackson) has been named “Hero of the Taxpayer” for July by Americans for Tax Reform, the nation’s leading taxpayer advocacy group. Rep. Bisbee, who currently chairs the House Commerce Committee of the Michigan legislature, has consistently displayed his dedication to taxpayers’ interests, not only by voting against higher taxes, but also by actively taking the lead in fighting them.

Michigan’s budget debate has been rollercoaster-like. While rejecting some taxes in each of the two chambers respectively, the legislature passed a 75 cent per pack cigarette tax hike as proposed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D), and is still considering other increases. While House Speaker Rick Johnson (R) wanted to raise the cigarette tax even higher than the governor – to \$2.06 per pack, Rep. Bisbee has consistently rejected all tax increases. Earlier this year, he even refused to pass the governor’s tax increase bill to the full House, stalling all action for the moment.

**“Clark Bisbee has been putting his political future on the line by taking on the governor and the leader of his own party in the House,”** said Grover Norquist, President for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **“This is political leadership. Rep. Bisbee has a record of demonstrating political courage by standing by the hard-working families of Michigan and saying ‘no’ to the big spenders in Lansing.”**

Taxpayer groups strongly criticize the tax-and-spend mood in Lansing, because of the extra burden it places on families and the damage it will do to the state’s economy. Interestingly, the Governor and other proponents of higher taxes have sold their tax hike as a job creation plan. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce has also been an outspoken opponent of higher taxes, making clear that ‘both excise taxes and estate taxes are counterproductive to the goal of making Michigan an enticing place to live, work and play’.

**“President Bush’s tax cuts have finally jump-started the economy, with business investment booming and new jobs beginning to be created,”** continued Norquist. **“Why would Michigan want to exclude itself from this tax cut-induced recovery by raising taxes? Would Michiganders prefer new jobs go to Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin? Clark Bisbee should be praised for standing up for the pocketbooks and the jobs of Michigan’s hard-working families.”**

*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).*