



NEWS

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Sen. Barham Leads Louisiana in Calling on Congress to Make Federal Tax Cuts Permanent

State legislators urge congressional action.

WASHINGTON— Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, praised Louisiana Senator Robert J. Barham (R-33) for his aggressiveness in protecting American taxpayers. In introducing a resolution urging Congress to permanently extend the successful federal tax cuts, Sen. Barham is using the power of Louisiana's influence to shape congressional debate.

ATR's State Legislative Advisory Project was launched in 2001 in an effort to help give state legislators a louder voice in federal policymaking. In the project's first year, twenty-seven states passed resolutions urging their congressional delegations to support the Economic Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. As of May, 2004, state legislators have already introduced 160 different resolutions in 40 legislative bodies in 27 states.

Taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of ATR, praised Sen. Barham's efforts. **“Americans for Tax Reform applauds Sen. Barham for strengthening the voices of state legislators working to bring critical issues to the forefront of congressional debate. State legislators are intimately involved with their districts and their constituents. They should not shy away from offering valuable insight into the federal lawmaking process. Taxpayers in Louisiana are lucky to have a leader like Sen. Barham who is willing to lead the legislature in just such a direction.”**

Sen. Barham's resolution shows Louisiana's congressional delegates that their constituents expect action to protect the tax cuts. Taxpayers in Louisiana favor President Bush's plan that cuts taxes for every taxpayer that pays income taxes, eliminated the marriage penalty, increased the child tax credit and provided small businesses with incentives to expand.

“We solidly support the efforts of the state legislators who have passed these resolutions,” said Norquist. **“It is the local leaders in the individual states that most closely represent the will of the people, and it is up to them to hold Congress accountable to the taxpaying citizens they represent.”**

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 Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at jcollegio@atr.org.