



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Reps. DeRossett, Steil, Ehart, Pappageorge, Johnson, Robertson, and Milosch Named “Enemies of the Taxpayer”

*-- Votes on tobacco tax, internet tax, and casino tax show legislators' true colors --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Michigan House of Representatives rejected Gov. Granholm’s tobacco tax plan, but approved legislation that would double the tax on Detroit casinos and make it easier to tax internet purchases.

These recent votes on tax increases show which representatives affirmed their written commitment to their constituents to **“oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.”** Although thirteen legislators signed this pledge, seven went back on their commitment by voting for various tax increases.

**“The votes made by Gene DeRossett, Glenn Steil, Stephen Ehardt, John Pappageorge, Ruth Johnson, David Robertson, and Matt Milosch gave a clear message to the hard-working families of Michigan,”** continued Norquist. **“By breaking the Pledge and voting for tax increases, they show that they are willing to put producers and consumers at risk, hinder technological advancement, and place a burden upon the average Michigan tax-payer. Their behavior is worthy of an Enemy of the Taxpayer Award.”**

Governor Granholm’s proposed tobacco tax plan would have increased the tax on tobacco products by 75 cents. The passage of the tax increase on Detroit casinos doubles the tax from 18 percent to 36 percent. Finally, the internet tax package permits Michigan to enter the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSTP), making it easier for the state to collect taxes on internet and catalogue purchases. Representatives Leon Drolet (H-33), John Garfield (H-45), Rick Shaffer (H-59), Jacob W. Hoogendyk (H-61), Clark Bisbee (H-64), and Kenneth Bradstreet (H-10) voted against these tax increases. Representatives Pappageorge (H-41), Ruth Johnson (H-46), and David Robertson (H-51) voted for the casino tax increase. Representatives Gene DeRossett (H-52), Glenn Steil (H-72), and Stephen Ehardt (H-83) voted for both the casino tax and the internet tax package.

**“Of the thirteen Michigan house members that signed the Pledge, six of them continue to stand up for the promise they made to their constituents,”** said Grover Norquist, president for Tax Reform. **“Leaders like Clark Bisbee and Leon Drolet understand that tax increases yield negative effects. The other half of that thirteen, however, has let down the people of Michigan.”**

*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).*