



NEWS

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Governor Benson's Fiscal Leadership

-- New Hampshire Gov. Craig Benson has consistently honored his commitment to taxpayers--

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the end of Gov. Benson's first term in office draws to a close, it is time to take a look at the record of his administration. After the hi-tech bubble burst in 2000, most states found themselves struggling with fiscal problems. In the years that followed, and even after the budget picture had improved, many Governors took the easy route which led over taxpayers' pockets, in order to boost spending levels.

Governor Craig Benson resisted these temptations to place the burden on the taxpayers of his state. Instead, he explored fiscally sound possibilities to deal with budget shortages. Last year, he took on big spenders in New Hampshire by vetoing a budget which, while it did not contain a tax increase, would have raised spending by more than 8 percent. Benson's statements underline his notion of fiscal responsibility: "Any revenue increase that lands on my desk will be vetoed. The people of New Hampshire already pay too much. (...) I have maintained from day one that state government needs to learn to live within its means."

"Governor Benson is a signer of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, which commits him, as Governor, to "oppose and veto any and all efforts to increase taxes," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **"And Benson does not only talk the talk, he also walks the walk – and has protected taxpayers' pocketbooks ever since he took office. This is true fiscal leadership!"**

In addition to balancing the budget without a tax increase, Benson pushed for implementing a Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) last year, which would limit spending increases to the rate of inflation plus population growth. Thanks to Benson's refusal to even consider increases in revenue, this year's budget session also ended without a tax increase.

"Governor Benson really understands his job as governing on behalf of his constituents," Norquist continues. **"Other states should look to the Benson administration when it comes to fiscal responsibility."**

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.