



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Quid Pro Quo Deal involved in Tax Hike Vote?

-- After being challenged, only 5 Delegates promised Virginians they would not be paid off for voting for a tax increase --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a letter sent in early April, Americans for Tax Reform had challenged 31 Virginian Delegates and Senators and had requested they promise Virginians that they had not been offered and would not accept a position from a Democratic Governor in a quid pro quo.

The concern was justified, because experience elsewhere had shown that a future paycheck may sweeten the appeal of hiking taxes – as happened in Oregon, where at least two tax-raising Republicans, Representatives Lane Shetterly and Max Williams, were appointed to high paying jobs in the Democratic Governor Kulongoski’s administration.

“A disturbingly small number of five delegates has responded to our challenge, and have declared they have not been offered and would not accept any such position.” said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform. **“This leaves us worrying about the other 26, who have not ruled out taking a job in a Democratic administration. Has there been a sweetheart deal to trade votes for a fat paycheck and pension?”**

Americans for Tax Reform had promised Virginians to let them know how their legislators responded. Here are the five answers to the letters:

Del. Parrish, Manassas: “I want to answer your fax: I have not been offered a job by anyone, because I have my own business. I have been in elected office for 53 years. And I would not accept any job that anyone did offer me that would have anything to do with legislative process. I represent the citizens of the commonwealth of Virginia and will continue to do so to the best of my abilities.”

Del. Chris Jones, Suffolk

“(…) Regarding the tax increase and legislators accepting jobs from a democratic governor, you can certainly be assured that this has not, is not and will never be the case with me. I will have a letter forthcoming to you first of the week (…)”

Del. Robert Tata, Virginia Beach: “In answer your letter of April 7th regarding support for tax increases for the people of Virginia, at my age I don’t even buy green bananas let alone work or worry about another job. The answer to both of your questions is “NO”. (…)

Del. Dave Nutter, Montgomery: “Please note that I would never take a political appointment with the Warner administration. Having saved as a schedule C appointee under President Reagan, I remain committed to the Republican Party. (…)”

Del. Riley Ingram, Hopewell: “(…) I can assure you I have been offered nothing, if I were ever offered anything I would not do it, and if I was ever going to take something like this, I would not be in the job in the first place.”

Virginia Legislators Sent Challenge Letter

Senate

Harry Blevins (R-14)
John Chichester (R-28)
Emmet Hanger (R-24)
Charles Hawkins (R-19)
William Mims (R-33)
Thomas Norment (R-3)
Russell Potts (R-27)
Frederick Quayle (R-13)
Frank Ruff (R-15)
Kenneth Stolle (R-8)
Walter Stosch (R-12)
William Wampler (R-40)
John Watkins (R-10)

House

Preston Bryant (R-23)
Vincent F. Callahan (R-34)
Charles W. Carrico, Sr. (R-5)
Jim Dillard (R-41)
William H. Fralin, Jr. (R-17)
Robert Hurt (R-16)
Riley Ingram (R-62)
Chris Jones (R-76)
Daniel Marshall (R-14)
Harvey Morgan (R-98)
David Nutter (R-7)
Glenn Oder (R-94)
Robert Orrock (R-54)
Harry Parrish (R-50)
Gary A. Reese (R-67)
Thomas Rust (R-86)
Edward T. Scott (R-30)
Robert Tata (R-85)

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.