



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Statement of Grover Norquist on Congressman DeMint's National Sales Tax Proposal

Democratic candidate Inez Tenenbaum has suggested that I oppose the idea of a national sales tax, and therefore am in disagreement with Congressman DeMint on fundamental tax reform. I would like to make several clarifications.

- 1) **Americans for Tax Reform and I agree with Congressman DeMint** that the current tax code is discriminatory, favors and encourages many behaviors that are detrimental to our economic well being, and encourages a tax and spend culture in Washington. The graduated income tax with its labyrinth of regulations and exceptions is a monumental drag on society and compartmentalizes American taxpayers to keep them from working together to oppose tax increases.
- 2) **Americans for Tax Reform and I strongly disagree with Inez Tenenbaum and John Kerry** that the existing discriminatory tax code is laudable, and should even be increased in its complexity and favoritism. The Kerry/Tenenbaum support for our current tax code exists because the present tax system enables Washington politicians to divide and conquer American taxpayers, allowing them collect and dispense more taxpayer dollars than they ever could under a simpler system.
- 3) Americans for Tax Reform has supported the flat tax as the best type of fundamental tax reform, and I have argued on behalf of the flat tax for more than 10 years. But **I firmly believe that a national retail sales tax is infinitely superior to the Kerry/Tenenbaum plan of supporting the status quo.**
- 4) **It is clear that when it comes to taxes, there is one candidate in the South Carolina Senate race that is pro-reform and one that is anti-reform.** Americans for Tax Reform is in agreement with the policy of the pro-taxpayer candidate, Congressman Jim DeMint. ATR could not disagree more with Inez Tenenbaum.
- 5) There is one easy, objective source of information about who is the taxpayer friendly candidate in this election. Congressman Jim DeMint has signed the Americans for Tax Reform Taxpayer Protection Pledge, and Inez Tenenbaum, like John Kerry, has refused to do so. The Pledge is a written commitment to the taxpayers of South Carolina that the named candidate will not raise taxes. **South Carolinians know that Jim DeMint will not raise their taxes. He has put it in writing. They know that Inez Tenenbaum will try to raise their taxes, because she refuses to sign the pledge.**

Grover G. Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform

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 Christopher Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at cbutler@atr.org.

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