



# AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
President

August 26, 2008

To: Governor Schwarzenegger & Leaders in the California Legislature  
CC: California and National Media

Re: Californians Sharing in the Solution

A group of 48 self-described “high-income earning Californians,” sent a letter to you last week expressing their willingness to have their income taxed at a higher rate in order to address over \$15 billion in state overspending.

While these individuals may think that they are not taxed enough, they do not speak for California taxpayers in their belief that they are under-taxed. California families already face one of the highest state and local sales tax burdens in the nation with over 10 percent of income consumed by state and local taxes. Furthermore, California has some of the highest income tax rates in the country and has the dubious honor of being home to the highest sales tax in the nation.

The fact is that the state does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem. For years, fiscal profligacy has reined supreme, with state spending having increased over 40 percent in the last 4 years.

Now is the time for the state to tighten its fiscal belt and spend within its means, just as California families are doing. Last year, The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association published the California Piglet Book in cooperation with Citizens Against Government Waste. The publication identifies \$3 billion in savings for California’s state and local government, providing a good starting point.

There is an answer for those, like the previously mentioned “high-income earning Californians,” who would like to pay more taxes. That answer is a **Tax Me More Fund**. California lawmakers can simply create a Tax Me More Fund, as over five other states have done, so that people who feel they are under-taxed have a place to send their money. In fact, Senate Bill 1288, introduced in 2002, would have established a Tax Me More Fund in California had it passed. I urge lawmakers to reintroduce and pass this legislation before adjourning the 2008 legislative session.

Americans for Tax Reform looks forward to working with you to pass a budget that does not raise the already high taxes paid by your constituents. Feel free to call on me or ATR’s state affairs manager Patrick Gleason at 202-785-0266 or [pgleason@atr.org](mailto:pgleason@atr.org).

Onward,

Grover Norquist

1920 L Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC

20036

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

[www.atr.org](http://www.atr.org)