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## Taxpayer Group Applauds “Launch of Government Accountability in Spending Project” in Wisconsin

*Spending transparency starts at the local level with Milwaukee County opening its books*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform applauds CRG Network for championing an effort that seeks to make all government expenditures in Wisconsin available online in searchable online databases, an effort that has been dubbed the “Government Accountability in Spending Project” (GASP).

Milwaukee County is the first Wisconsin government unit to open its books to public scrutiny, and provided its shared data with CRG. The GASP database allows users to search county invoices accounting for over \$1.3 billion. Milwaukee County is expected to launch its own Expenditure Accountability Project later this year. CRG cites Americans for Tax Reform as an inspiration for taking on this ambitious project.

“The successful launch of GASP is another indication that there is a growing demand for transparency in government spending – at all levels of government,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “This database is a giant leap towards greater accountability, and by putting expenditure information at taxpayers’ fingertips will empower them to become true fiscal watchdogs.”

Spurred by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which led to the creation of [www.usaspending.gov](http://www.usaspending.gov), in 2007, five states (Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota and Hawaii) passed legislation that mandates the creation of similar database websites. Several states including Texas, Missouri, South Carolina, and most recently Louisiana have taken executive action or are looking to do so. But as the launch of GASP shows, this effort is not limited to federal and state-level efforts. The GASP website can be accessed at <http://milwaukeecounty.headquarters.com> or from [www.crgnetwork.com](http://www.crgnetwork.com). For more information on spending transparency efforts refer to [www.ATR.org](http://www.ATR.org).

“Thomas Jefferson once said: ‘We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant’s books, so that every member of Congress and every man of any mind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them,’” continued Norquist. “The Founding Fathers had the vision, and today, we have the technology to fully implement their vision. Hats off to CRG Network and Milwaukee County for making the start – soon it will be impossible for any government entity to resist this call for greater fiscal transparency.”

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 John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [jkartch@atr.org](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).

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