



## AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

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*President*

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Dear State Legislator,

I write to urge your support for SB 971, a bill that would enact the Bureaucracy Realignment and Closure Act of 2008, sponsored by Sen. Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks).

The Californian state budget is in dire straits. Uncontrolled government spending has resulted in a fiscal crisis to the tune of \$14 billion over the next 18 months.

While California taxpayers in 2005 had to work 187.6 days out of the year – until July 7 – to pay for the total cost of government, the additional burden imposed by government in 2007 had risen to the extent that it forced California taxpayers to work another 12 days, until July 19<sup>th</sup> to pay off the cost imposed by spending and regulation. SB 971 provides a vehicle to tackle one of the underlying problems: an ever-growing government bureaucracy.

Following the example of the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission, which by recommending closure and realignment of military bases has saved and continues to save American taxpayers billions of dollars per year, SB 971 would apply a similar mechanism to California's government bureaucracy.

The to-be-established commission would be tasked with identifying redundancies and inefficiencies in state government and submitting recommendations for closure and realignment to the governor and legislature. This in turn would allow the legislature and the governor to take the appropriate steps towards deflating the bloated bureaucracy which weighs all too heavy on taxpayers' wallets.

The passage of this legislation, paired with greater transparency in government spending which could be implemented by creating a single-searchable website for government expenditures including, but not limited to, grants and contracts can go far to increase accountability and fiscal restraint – both of which are much needed in California.

Onward,

Grover Norquist