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Gov. Bobby Jindal Named “Friend of the Taxpayer”

*Newly inaugurated governor hits the ground running,
resolves to shine a light on government spending*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform announced today its decision to name newly-inaugurated Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana “Friend of the Taxpayer.” Thanks to an executive order signed by the governor, taxpayers in Louisiana will soon be able to track their tax dollars at a mouse click.

Executive Order No. BJ 2008 -2 establishes a number of goals and directs the commissioner of administration to work towards accomplishing these, among them the online reporting of all states grants and contracts, improved access to existing databases, and the creation of an online spending database.

“Gov. Jindal has truly hit the ground running. Thanks to his leadership, Louisiana taxpayers can look forward to increased accountability and transparency in state government,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “A searchable website for government expenditures will give taxpayers an important tool to understand exactly how their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent. Ultimately, it will serve to help combat fraud, waste and abuse.”

In signing the executive order, Gov. Jindal is joining Gov. Matt Blunt of Missouri, and Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina, both of whom signed similar executive orders in 2007. Gov. Mitch Daniels of Indiana required the online posting of state contracts in 2005. Five states took legislative action in 2007 (Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Hawaii), to create similar government spending websites. Other state constitutional officers in Nebraska, New York and Illinois have taken steps towards greater fiscal transparency. For more information visit www.ATR.org.

“Over the course of the last year, Americans for Tax Reform has been fortunate to work with policy makers around the country to set new standards for fiscal accountability in government,” continued Norquist. I am thrilled that Gov. Jindal is one of the governors taking the lead, and we are looking forward to working with him to accomplish his goals for the sake of Louisiana taxpayers.”

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.

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