



# AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
President

January 24, 2008

The Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal,

I write to congratulate you on issuing Executive Order No. BJ 2008 -2, which requires the commissioner of administration to work towards accomplishing an outlined series of goals, among them the online reporting of all state grants and contracts, improving access to current databases, and the creation of an online state spending database.

Thomas Jefferson once said: "We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant's book, 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."

**Your commendable dedication to opening government expenditures to public scrutiny falls in line with the intent of our Founding Fathers.**

Creating a searchable website for government expenditures will provide Louisiana taxpayers with a tool to access, search and easily find relevant spending information, and ultimately foster a better understanding of the ways in which government operates. Ultimately, it will help reduce fraud, waste and abuse. Opacity in the way government spends tax dollars often leaves taxpayers frustrated, and can create the perception of possible abuse of the system.

More public scrutiny will help eliminate impropriety in dealing with taxpayer dollars – be it perceived or real impropriety. Ultimately, taxpayers will be best served when all levels of government - federal, state and local - are required to disclose their expenditures in a clear searchable public format.

As examples in other states have shown, this issue clearly transcends party lines. There may not be consensus about how the money should be spent, but there is agreement that taxpayers should be able to keep track of the spending.

One thing I might suggest is to not only set a deadline for the commissioner of administration to submit recommendations, but to actually set a date for the implementation of the expenditure database, which is currently not set forth in your executive order.

Louisiana taxpayers have appreciated your standing up on their behalf in the U.S. Congress, and they certainly welcome your determination as governor to making their own state government more accountable by opening it up to public scrutiny, as demonstrated by your swift action upon assuming office.

Americans for Tax Reform is looking forward to continuing to work with you and to highlighting your leadership on this important issue.

Onward,

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