



# AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
President

July 2, 2008

All Pledge Signers  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Virginia Senate

Dear Pledge Signer,

In regards to the transportation debate, I write to urge you to keep your word and fight all proposals that would result in tax increases. In the face of rising fuel costs, now more than ever Virginians cannot afford a higher tax burden.

While Gov. Kaine's egregious proposal may have been brushed aside, two tax hike plans still remain on the table. The \$3 billion-plus gas tax increase package sponsored by Senator Saslaw would leave taxpayer wallets threadbare. As a steward of taxpayer dollars, without a doubt, you should immediately reject this bill outright. However, a seemingly more innocuous bill will be placed in front of you next week.

This bill, HB 6055, is a plan riddled with local tax increases and no offsetting tax cuts. **HB 6055 violates the Taxpayer Protection Pledge.** As a signer of the Pledge, you have committed to oppose and vote against any and all efforts to raise taxes. As such, you should be aware that, in addition to the direct tax increases imposed by the state in this legislation, authorizing a local tax hike is an abdication of fiscal leadership and thus should be rejected firmly. Passing the ball along to localities is enabling another level of government to increase the tax burden on your constituents, a far cry from your promise to "oppose" any and all tax increases.

Taxpayers in the Commonwealth would be better served if the state's transportation goals were met with free-market solutions rather than a short-sighted tax hike that would only paper over the current dilemma. As I have mentioned before, if transportation is truly the top priority for Virginia, the transportation budget should be handled first, before any other state project is addressed or financed.

It makes it even more galling that big spenders in Richmond propose these tax increase after the legislation to strengthen the current levels of fiscal transparency introduced during the last regular session never made it out of committee. Only if and when information on all government expenditures, combined with the full text of all government grants and contracts and accompanying documents, are made available online in a searchable online database will taxpayers have any reason to even trust Richmond that there is some kind of "crisis".

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)