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Virginia Legislature Set to Pave the Commonwealth's Roads with Higher Taxes?

Two transportation tax increase plans left on the table in special session

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Virginia's transportation special session is taking place and taxpayers are threatened with tax hikes from every angle. So far, Gov. Tim Kaine's (D) 1.1 billion tax increase plan has been struck down, but two other proposals still remain on the table. Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax County) has sponsored a gas tax increase package, and HB 6055 has been proposed in the House of Delegates that would allow for local tax hikes in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.

In a letter sent to signers of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform urges signers to reject both proposals, and makes clear that HB 6055, a seemingly less threatening plan, too constitutes a violation of the Pledge. For a copy of the letter please visit: <http://www.atr.org/content/pdf/2008/july/070208lt-va-HB6055.pdf> .

“At a time when Virginians are struggling to pay their mortgage payments, put gas in their tanks, and put food on their tables, a gas tax increase is just ludicrous,” Norquist says. “But signers of the Pledge should not be fooled – HB 6055 is not as innocent as some make it out to be, and constitutes a violation of their commitment not to raise taxes.”

Signers of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge commit to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.” For a list of Virginia's Taxpayer Protection Pledge signers, please visit http://www.atr.org/content/pdf/2008/ot-statepledge_list.pdf .

“Pledge signers should know better than to vote for either of these plans,” Norquist continued. “If transportation is a priority to the governor and the legislature in Virginia, then make it one, and pass the transportation budget first, before tackling all other components of the budget.”