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## Rep. Love's Vote Against Tax Hikes was a Vote Against Higher Energy Costs

*Harri Anne Smith attack ad is well off the mark*

**Washington, D.C.** – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) today applauded Alabama State Representative Jay Love (R-Montgomery) for opposing a bill that would have increased taxes on energy production in the state. At the same time, ATR condemned an attack ad that Sen. Harri Anne Smith (R-Slocomb) is running against Rep. Love as misguided, and contrary to the letter and spirit of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge that both candidates have signed. The Pledge commits signers to “oppose and vote against” any and all tax increases.

The tax increase measure, initially proposed by Gov. Bob Riley (R), would have levied a \$200 million tax increase on natural gas production in Alabama. After strong opposition from members of the House Government Appropriations Committee, including Rep. Jay Love, as well as consumer and trade groups, the bill was indefinitely postponed by the committee and died when the legislature adjourned the regular session.

**“I commend Representative Love and the Government Appropriations Committee for fighting against higher taxes on gas production that would ultimately drive up energy prices for Alabamans.”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“At a time when energy costs are already on the rise, Representative Love fought to provide relief to Alabama households.”**

Rep. Love, who is now running for Alabama's 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Congressional District, was recently attacked for his opposition on the \$200 million energy tax by primary opponent and State Senator Harri Anne Smith. Sen. Smith, also a signer of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, misleadingly portrayed Love in television ads as voting “to give tax breaks for big oil,” instead of simply opposing new taxes on energy.

**“As a signer of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, Senator Smith should be siding with Representative Love against this massive tax hike.”** Norquist added. **“Instead, she is falsely attacking loyal signers of the pledge. If Senator Smith were to vote on this energy tax based on the position she is taking in her ads, she would violate the Pledge she made to the people of Alabama not to raise their taxes.”**

Americans for Tax Reform does not endorse candidates for office. Both Sen. Harri Anne Smith and Rep. Jay Love have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge to oppose all tax increases.