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14 JULY 2008

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine Named “Enemy of the Taxpayer”

Governor calls special session of legislature with one thing in mind: increasing taxes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today Americans for Tax Reform named Virginia Governor Tim Kaine “Enemy of the Taxpayer” for his efforts to raise taxes on Virginians in order to increase funding for transportation.

After touting his \$1.1 billion transportation taxing plan all across Virginia, Gov. Kaine called a special session to enact it. Kaine’s actions also set a precedent for state legislators, who crafted similar tax hike proposals as alternatives. Fortunately for Virginia’s families, both Kaine and the legislature’s attempts to pass massive tax increase proposals were struck down.

“The problem is that the approach from the beginning was that tax increases were the only “answer” to funding transportation”, said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Rather than trying to raid taxpayer wallets with new taxes at a time when his constituents are struggling to pay for fuel in their tanks and to put food on the table, he could have been pushing for cutting costs in the budget in order to pay for his transportation proposals. Why doesn’t Gov. Kaine show leadership and figure out how to pay for his priorities first, transportation being one of them, rather than trying to raise taxes on his constituents by calling a special session.”**

Governor Kaine had the opportunity to push for further government transparency in spending. He had the opportunity to push for an audit of the Virginia Department of Transportation in order to find savings in the Department. He also had the opportunity to show leadership and tighten the belt of the Commonwealth’s government and make cuts elsewhere in the budget in order to pay for transportation. Instead, he chose to show his lack of leadership with an attempt to raise taxes on hardworking Virginians.

Norquist continued, **“Governor Kaine should look to cost savings for the government right now, taking a page from many Virginians who are being forced to do in their own lives. Instead, he is trying to assault them with higher taxes. It is a good thing that the special session ended in a stalemate this year, because all of the cards to be played were those involving tax increases on the citizens of the Commonwealth.”**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or at jkartch@atr.org.

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