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30 JULY 2008

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Empire Center Invites You to “See Through NY” Finances

National taxpayer advocacy organization applauds the launch of Empire Center spending transparency website

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Americans for Tax Reform applauds the launch of SeeThroughNY.com, a project of the Empire Center for New York State Policy, which will offer New York taxpayers comprehensive information on where their hard-earned money is going at the state and local levels.

The website features search functions for legislative expenditure reports as well as community projects (or member spending items). In addition to detail about these types of expenditures state payroll data, searchable contracts (including school district labor contracts) and links to other New York transparency websites are also available.

“On behalf of New York taxpayers, I congratulate the Empire Center for New York State Policy on the launch of their new transparency website,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “New York taxpayers deserve comprehensive information on government spending and easy access to that information - and SeeThroughNY delivers.”

ATR and the Empire Center for New York State Policy have long promoted making government more accountable to taxpayers through increased scrutiny of government expenditures in an effort to reduce waste, fraud and abuse. The launch of SeeThroughNY comes on the heels of the launch of State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli’s Open Book New York and Attorney General Andrew Cuomo’s Project Sunlight.

“Thomas Jefferson once said: ‘*We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant’s books, so that every members of Congress and every man of any kind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them,*’” continued Norquist. “SeeThroughNY is a great model for other states to emulate in making state and local spending information available to taxpayers in a comprehensive and user-friendly format.”

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

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