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CONTACT: John Kartch
Karri Bragg
202-785-0266

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Presenting the Newest Member of the Mantis Club: Governor Steve Beshear

Freshman governor earns membership after betraying Kentucky taxpayers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform announces the newest member to be inducted into the prestigious Mantis Club, freshman Gov. Steve Beshear (D) of Kentucky. To qualify for membership to the Mantis Club, a governor must campaign on a platform of no-new-taxes and then quickly reverse course once entering office. The Mantis Club is named for the praying mantis, an insect which is easily camouflaged and devours its mate after mating.

Gov. Beshear and his fellow members resemble this insect as they lure voters into believing they would not raise taxes if elected, and then quickly eat the taxpayers for lunch once elected to office. The governor also joins former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner (D), who vigorously campaigned on promises not to raise taxes but imposed the largest tax increase in the history of the Commonwealth. More recently, current Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine (D) and New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine (D) have gained membership for their betrayal of taxpayers in their respective states.



“Like a praying mantis, Gov. Beshear presented himself as a friend of the taxpayer, and now that he is in office he wants to devour the same voters who elected him,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform.

Despite stating throughout his campaign that he felt that the tax burden on

Kentucky taxpayers was already too high, Gov. Beshear has recently come out in strong support of a 70-cent per pack cigarette tax increase. When asked to explain his new philosophy on taxes, the governor flatly stated, “I changed my mind.”

“Gov. Beshear has proven himself to be a worthy member of the Mantis Club,” continued Norquist. “He offers no explanation for his willingness to deceive taxpayers. By turning his back on campaign promises and now advocating for a tax hike that would drain millions of dollars from taxpayer pockets, Gov. Beshear embodies the bait-and-switch philosophy of Mantis Club members.”

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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