



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

1920 L Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC

20036

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org

April 10, 2008

Dear Legislator,

In light of the ongoing debate over taxing natural gas wells along Alabama's coast, I write to urge you to stand up for the best interests of taxpayers in the state and reject this and any effort to raise taxes as the legislative session continues.

While proponents of this legislation would have you believe that this tax is "temporary", please be aware that there is no such thing as a "temporary" tax hike. Consider the Spanish-American War Tax, imposed in 1898 as the "perfect temporary tax." While the war ended years ago, the tax remains on your telephone bill. Make no mistake, if this tax is put on the books, it will stick around and ultimately balloon, and taxpayers are once again on the losing side.

While any tax increase would cause damage to the state's economy and place a higher burden on Alabama taxpayers, a tax hike on natural gas is especially onerous. A higher tax on gas wells will ultimately drive up prices, and at a time in which energy costs are already sky-high, taxpayers cannot manage the added expense.

Proponents may attempt to convince you that this measure is not punitive- yet taxpayers would be forced to foot the bill for the Alabama Supreme Court's recent ruling. While the administration may be calling for higher taxes to make up for "lost revenue", legislators should seize this opportunity to trim the fat in Alabama's state budget.

Alabama taxpayers are depending on you to ensure that their burden does not increase. On behalf of Alabama taxpayers, I urge you to reject this and any effort to raise taxes as the session continues.

Onward,

Grover Norquist