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Plastic Bags – A New Way To Throw Out Your Money *CA Assembly Dems harm taxpayers*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Yesterday, Assembly Democrats passed AB 2058 along party lines, which imposes a new tax upon paper and plastic bags used in grocery stores. Assembly Republicans opposed the bill unanimously, citing concerns over the potential ramifications of the tax on consumers.

Assembly Bill 2058, authored by Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys), mandates grocery stores to increase their recycling of paper and plastic bags used by customers by at least 70 percent over 2007 recycling rates. If this is not achieved, stores would be required by law to charge a tax of at least 25 cents for each bag used by shoppers. If each store does not keep enough bags out of landfills, or refuses to charge a tax on shopping bags, law would prohibit these stores from providing bags altogether.

“This is yet another example of excessive government interference into taxpayer’s daily lives of America’s citizens,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Not surprisingly, this bill follows the tax-and-spend mantra: mandate & regulate to fix the state. Too bad taxpayers will be left footing the bill for this overreaching legislation.”**

Assembly Republicans noted that this bill has potentially damaging effects on the average family, as most families use bags provided by the store to bring home their groceries each week. This creates a lose-lose situation for families, GOP lawmakers say: they either lose time finding a suitable bag to use at the grocery store each week, or they lose hundreds of dollars each year in bag taxes.

“In light of record prices for both food and gasoline, this bill is disastrous for the average consumer,” said Norquist. **“I am disgusted that the Assembly Democrats have wasted valuable taxpayer time and money on such a ridiculous issue. Instead of asking themselves ‘how can we best serve the taxpayers’, big government legislators are only capable of asking ‘paper or plastic?’”**

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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