

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: John Kartch

29 OCTOBER 2008

Kelly Cobb  
202-785-0266

## ATR Supports Oregon Measure 59

### *Measure 59 Will End Double Taxation of Income, Grow Small Businesses*

Washington, D.C. – Today Americans for Tax Reform, a non-profit taxpayer advocacy organization that opposes all tax increases, officially announced its support for Oregon Measure 59 that will appear on the November 4 ballot. Measure 59 allows taxpayers and small businesses to fully deduct federal income taxes on state income tax returns.

Measure 59 is slated to save Oregon taxpayers and small businesses upwards of \$1.3 billion over the next two years and nearly \$2.4 billion biannually beginning in 2011. Currently, Oregonians can only deduct up to \$5,600 of their federal tax liability on state returns, resulting in double taxation of income over that amount.

“Passage of Measure 59 will eliminate an inequitable tax bias in Oregon that results in residents paying taxes twice on the same income – once to the state and once to the federal government,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “Allowing for full deduction of federal tax liability on state returns will raise net incomes for families, improve living standards, and help spur the state’s economy by putting more money into residents’ pockets.”

Small businesses also stand to gain under Measure 59. In Oregon, a shocking 96% of business establishments are small businesses and well over two-thirds of these companies file under their owner’s personal income tax return. These small businesses employ 42% of Oregon’s residents, but face a top personal income tax rate of 9%, while corporations pay a flat rate of only 6.6%.

“This measure is not just about the ability for taxpayers to keep their hard earned money, its about growing business and creating jobs in Oregon,” added Norquist. “By allowing small business owners to deduct their federal taxes, they have more money left to hire workers, purchase additional equipment, and expand their operations.”

**Vote YES on the Oregon Ballot Measure 59 on November 4<sup>th</sup>!**

*Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) 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](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).*

###