



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
6 MAY 2003

CONTACT: Emily Sedgwick
202-785-0266

MINNESOTA TAXPAYERS: Watch Out! **** Senate Leadership Proposes Huge Tax Increase ****

WASHINGTON – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) strongly opposes efforts by members of the Minnesota state senate to increase taxes on hard-working Minnesotans.

“A \$4.23 billion spending shortfall is no reason to hike taxes and every reason to cut spending,” commented Grover Norquist, President of ATR.

Before their scheduled May 19, 2003 adjournment, the DFL-controlled Senate and the GOP-controlled House will have to reconcile several points of contention, such as:

- The Senate budget plan would cut spending by only \$1.2 billion, while the House plan would cut spending by \$2.4 billion.
- The Senate budget plan calls for a \$1/pack cigarette tax increase and an income tax increase for the top 5% of income-earners, affecting couples who earn more than \$250,000 and single people earning more than \$135,000. The total cost to taxpayers of the cigarette and income tax hikes surpasses \$1 billion/year.
- The Senate budget plan also calls for a 5c/gallon gas tax increase to pay for transportation and transit spending.
- The House plan does not include any tax increases.

“I applaud those members of the Minnesota legislature who have remained steadfast in their opposition to tax increases. I also commend Governor Tim Pawlenty for keeping his pledge to Minnesotan taxpayers that he will oppose tax increases,” continued Norquist.

“And I agree with Minnesota’s Finance Commissioner, Dan McElroy, who recently remarked upon Minnesota’s habitual overspending, “This is a 30-year problem. We have to slow the rate of spending.”

“Mr. McElroy is absolutely correct. I encourage every member of the Minnesota Legislature to work to find a solution to the problem of overspending, rather than looking to plug the budget with tax increases or additional revenues. Minnesotans deserve a state budget that they can afford.”

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 Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.