



NEWS

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Mich. Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema Declared "Enemy of the Taxpayer"

About-face on tax increase a definite turn for the worse for Michigan taxpayers

WASHINGTON—Today Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) announced that it was awarding its "Enemy of the Taxpayer" distinction to Michigan Senate Majority Leader Ken Skikema (R-Wyoming). Sen. Skikema has had abandoned taxpayers, and is now willing to support liberal Gov. Jennifer Granholm in her bid to increase taxes.

"Just this weekend, Sen. Sikkema said, 'The governor has yet to provide a convincing argument on why we need to go back on our word to the taxpayers of Michigan that we are going to cut their taxes,'" said Grover Norquist, taxpayer advocate and president of ATR. "Either Ms. Granholm finally offered a 'convincing argument,' or somebody lost his spine. My money's on the latter."

Majority Leader Sikkema had been in the forefront of a Republican battle to prevent Gov. Granholm from raising taxes. But today, reports indicate that the Republican leader has lost his willingness to fight and has decided to support new taxes for Michigan families.

"Gov. Granholm is calling this a 'pause in the rollback.' The euphemisms these liberals have come up with are really getting hilarious. Next someone will suggest we 'rollback' the Reagan tax cuts. I've got news for my tax-and-spend friends: When taxes are higher than they would otherwise have been, what you are proposing is a tax increase. That's I-N-C-R-E-A-S-E. Not a 'rollback of a rollback,' a 'pause of a rollback,' a 'pause in the rollback of the rollback of the rollback.' All the double negatives in the world can't save rotten policy. Or the reputation of Sen. Sikkema," said Norquist.

Americans for Tax Reform is urging all members of the Michigan legislature to stand firm in opposition to Gov. Granholm's proposed increase, in spite of the actions of Majority Leader Sikkema. "Some obviously don't have the stomach for a fight, but we're betting there are taxpayer advocates in the Michigan Senate and House who aren't so squeamish," Norquist added.

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