

April 30, 2003

The Honorable  
New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator ,

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) strongly encourages you to vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes in New York, and to sustain any veto of Governor George Pataki's that eliminates a proposed tax increase.

A \$2 billion shortfall for the remainder of this fiscal year and a \$10 billion shortfall next year indicate that New Yorkers cannot afford massive spending increases, as some members of their Legislature have proposed and continue to propose. Taxpayers in New York paid through the nose for double-digit spending growth during the 1990s, and now the Legislature must reassess New York's spending habit and make serious changes for the future.

Governor Pataki clearly understands that New York taxpayers cannot afford the \$1.9 billion in additional spending that some members of the Legislature would prefer that his budget recommend. Cutting spending and streamlining state services will aid economic recovery in the state of New York far more than growth-inhibiting tax increases ever will.

*The Wall Street Journal* editorial page recently commented, "The [New York] state GOP is famously left of center on everything from gun control to abortion. If the party now rolls over for a tax increase, voters will have lost their only remaining reason to vote Republican." I agree, and I would add that voting for spending increases also reduce the distinction between fiscal conservatives and tax-and-spend liberals.

Again, I strongly encourage you to uphold Governor Pataki's veto of any and all tax increases.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Norquist', written in a cursive style.

Grover G. Norquist