



## AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

April 6, 2009

Governor Crist  
Florida House Taxpayer Protection Pledge Signers  
Florida Senate Taxpayer Protection Pledge Signers

Dear Pledge Signer,

In light of the many proposals to raise taxes currently being floated, I ask you to hold firm to your commitment to the taxpayers of Florida.

As a signer of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge (find the wording of the Pledge attached) you know that Florida's three billion dollar overspending problem should not be fixed by increasing the tax burden on your constituents. These challenging times should be viewed as an opportunity to reform, to eliminate wasteful spending, identify efficiencies and streamline government.

Some are trying to disguise their tax-hiking ways by reclassifying their effort as raising "fees." However, to qualify as a true "user fee", a charge must meet the following three criteria:

- The charge must be funding a specific service, with no excess going into a general fund;
- the charge must be paid only by those who use that specific government service;
- individuals must have the choice whether to purchase the service from government (and thus pay the fee) or to purchase the service from a private business.

Most of the current "fee hike" proposals fail to pass muster, and are in fact tax increases, and should consequently be rejected.

Your constituents, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet, are counting on you to make sure that their tax burden does not increase. Increasing their taxes will only add fuel to the fire, and further depress economic activity.

I urge you to stand up for taxpayers and oppose and vote against any and all tax increases. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Watson at 850.591.4770 or [rick@rwatsonandassociates.com](mailto:rick@rwatsonandassociates.com), or Nathan Pick, State Affairs Manager at 202.785.0266 or [npick@atr.org](mailto:npick@atr.org).

On behalf of Florida taxpayers, I thank you for the commitment that you made to your constituents and look forward to working with you to make sure that Floridians will be able to keep as much of their hard-earned tax dollars as possible.

Onward,

Grover Norquist

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