



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

April 15, 2009

Florida Senate
Florida House of Representatives
Cc: Governor Charlie Crist

Dear Legislator,

I write to you on tax day, asking on behalf of the taxpayers of your state that you oppose all tax increases. Today taxpayers all over the country and across the state of Florida feel the burden of a heavy government. As you move closer to the end of session, I ask that you consider ways to save taxpayer dollars. **You must look to the challenging economic times as an opportunity to reform government, eliminate wasteful spending, identify inefficiencies, and streamline government.**

Many taxpayers across this country are participating in tax day tea parties, letting their voices be heard, letting their government know that they are fed up with increased taxation and spending! These taxpayers realize that the \$3 billion overspending problem that you are now facing is not caused by a lack of taxpayer dollars being spent by the government, but rather a government that spends too much money.

I know there have been some trying to win the message battle, trying to call taxes anything but what they are. These taxes have been called surcharges (the latest name for the cigarette tax) and user fees, anything but a tax. **Don't be fooled by these name games, but rather, do the right thing and vote against any and all tax increases.** The taxpayers of your state do not look at their federal income tax bills as fees on their jobs. They do not look at a sales tax as a fee on the products they buy. The same holds true on these tax increases being misnamed under the guise of fees and surcharges. The taxpayers of your state will not be fooled.

When measuring whether a piece of legislation is taxing a good or service or instead charging a fee, you need to use the following 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 the government (and thus pay the fee) or to purchase the service from a private business.

If the piece of legislation you are considering fails to pass muster, it is a **TAX INCREASE**

It is critical to revitalize the Florida economy with tax cuts, not tax increases. We must lift the burden of larger government from the backs of hardworking taxpayers and consumers instead of further depressing economic activity. I urge you to stand up for taxpayers and oppose all tax increases. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Watson at 850.591.4770 or rick@rwatsonandassociates.com, or Nathan Pick, State Affairs Manager at 202.785.0266 or npick@atr.org.

Onward,

Grover Norquist

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