



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

May 28, 2009

Illinois Senate
Illinois House of Representatives

Re: Opposition to any budget that would require tax hikes

Dear Legislator,

As you know, Illinoisans and Americans all across the country are feeling the bite of this ailing economy. Many are struggling to make mortgage payments, put gas in their tanks, and put food on the table; they don't need any more taxes. There is never a good time to increase taxes, but now is a particularly bad time. **Whether it is Governor Quinn's Budget which requires income tax increases on individuals and businesses, or a tax hike deal of any other kind, it is a bad idea. I urge you to staunchly oppose any tax increase.**

The Governor's 50 percent income tax hike on the people of Illinois would take the individual income tax rate from 3 to 4.5 percent and the business tax rate from 4.8 to 7.2 percent. This plan would be harmful to the economy of Illinois. Recently, I have seen the adverse effects of income tax hikes in Maryland. Maryland raised the tax on individual millionaires and now they are missing one-third of the millionaires that were paying taxes in their state. Gov. Quinn wants to raise taxes across the board. There comes a tipping point when taxpayers decide to just leave.

Not only would this plan be harmful to the state, but any plan that would increase taxes of any kind (including taxes that some try to call "fees"). Any plan that would take money from the private sector (individuals and businesses) to sustain or grow government spending is moving in the wrong direction. Overspending is the real problem that needs to be addressed. The taxpayers of Illinois do not need a more burdensome government on their shoulders than what they already carry. budgetary problems have been caused by a slowing economy combined with unsustainably high government spending. During the recent economic boom, states found it easy to spend taxpayer dollars. Out-of-control spending caused this problem and tax increases are not the solution. **Use the fiscal problems that you are facing as an opportunity to reform government, eliminating wasteful spending, identify inefficiencies, and streamline government.**

It is critical to revitalize the Illinois 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 Governor Quinn's tax hike proposal or any other budget that would require any kind of tax increase for funding.** If you have any questions, please contact Nathan Pick, State Affairs Manager at 202.785.0266 or npick@atr.org.

Onward,

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