



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

August 4, 2008

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2058

Dear Gov. Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to urge that you to oppose AB 2058, sponsored by Assembly Member Lloyd Levine. This legislation would set up unrealistic waste diversion rates and impose a 25 cent per plastic bag tax.

The state is facing an enormous budget crunch and shouldn't be creating new bureaucracies. Californians already are taxed more heavily than people in most states and this proposed \$4.7 billion tax hike precisely the wrong approach to strengthening the golden state's economic competitiveness.

It should also be noted that California is barely one year into the plastic bag recycling program established by AB 2449. Consumers already routinely recycle plastic bags by reusing them for other purposes. AB 2449 encourages people to recycle any extras, an approach that preserves consumer choice while protecting the environment. Plastic bag recycling was up 24 percent from 2005 to 2006; a trend that is expected to continue.

In fact, there is substantial evidence that plastic bags, which use less energy and generate less pollution when made, actually are better for the environment than are paper bags. After the city of Oakland voted to ban plastic bags, a judge tossed out the ordinance, observing that the city council failed to consider evidence that the prohibition would actually hurt the environment.

AB 2058 is much the same. It hurts consumers and taxpayers, while doing nothing to promote recycling. All Californians will all be worse off if this dubious proposal becomes law. California families are reeling from record high food and gas prices. They can ill afford yet another charge.

I therefore urge you to oppose AB 2058 and to veto it should it come across your desk.

We at Americans for Tax Reform look forward to continuing to work with you and all California Pledge signers to fight tax increases. Feel free to call on me or ATR's state government affairs manager Patrick Gleason (pgleason@atr.org) with any questions.

Onward,

Grover Norquist

1920 L Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC

20036

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org