



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

June 13, 2008

Dear State Legislator,

As you deliberate the state budget, I urge you to reject any and all efforts to increase taxes.

The list of tax increases under consideration has grown long. Reportedly, everything from repealing parts of a gross receipts tax cut from 2005, increasing taxes on alcoholic beverages by as much as 50 percent, increasing the real estate transfer tax, to an income tax increase and various fee increases are on the table.

But make no mistake, any tax increase – regardless of who or what the target is, will drain money out of the private sector, and with that remove it from productive use. Raising taxes is not an effective or responsible long term fiscal solution as the desire for spending, if left unchecked will invariably outpace revenue. **Delaware does not have a revenue problem – Delaware has a spending problem.**

Rather than raiding taxpayers' wallets through the tax code, I would encourage you to look at what at least eleven other states have done legislatively over the past two years, and bring transparency and accountability into government finance, thereby eliminating fraud, waste and abuse – be it perceived or actual.

These states, and several others where governors took executive action, are getting taxpayers involved in their states' spending decisions by creating searchable online databases for government expenditures that allow taxpayers to track how their tax dollars are spent. Delaware has legislation to this effect this year, and I would urge you to enact it and the related bills introducing greater transparency at the local level swiftly.

In the meantime, taxpayers are relying on you to reject higher taxes. At a time when they are already feeling the pain at the pump and the grocery counter, raising taxes should not even be part of the discussion. In the upcoming days, I urge you to stand up for Delaware's taxpayers and reject all tax increases under consideration.

Onward,

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