



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

June 19, 2008

The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3603

The Honorable John B. Shadegg
United States House of Representatives
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0303

Dear Senator Coburn and Representative Shadegg,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and millions of American taxpayers, I commend your sponsorship of the Enumerated Powers Act (H.R.1359/ S.3159) and urge your fellow members to lend their support to this measure, which will force a long-overdue re-evaluation of the role of the federal government.

James Madison once said: "With respect to the two words 'general welfare,' I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators."

Unfortunately, modern day Congress has completed the metamorphosis, and ignored Madison's implicit warning not to overstep its legislative authority and has long delved into areas reserved to the states or to the people. For too long, Congress has legislated beyond the limited authority clearly spelled out in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, leaving taxpayers to bear the burden for a costly and ever-increasing expansion of government programs and bureaucracies.

By requiring that all bills introduced in the U.S. Congress include a "concise and definite statement" setting forth the specific constitutional authority "relied upon for enactment," and by giving rise to a point of order in either House of Congress for failure to do so, the Enumerated Powers Act will go far in restoring the integrity of the U.S. Constitution.

Americans for Tax Reform urges all members of the U.S. Congress to support this bill which will allow for a return to the limited role of government our Founding Fathers envisioned.

Onward,

Grover Norquist

cc: all Members of the U.S. Congress

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