




AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM

 **Center for**
Fiscal
Accountability

January 26, 2010

To: All Members of the U.S. Senate
Re: Support the CARFA Act

Dear U.S. Senator:

We write to urge you to support the amendment implementing the CARFA Act, which would set up a BRAC-style spending-only commission. After a series of government bailouts, the trillion dollar spending and debt package passed under the guise of “economic stimulus,” and an overall increase in federal spending, taxpayers demand that Congress take action. Thankfully, the Senate has already rejected what would have been the wrong course of action: The Conrad/Gregg commission proposal, which would have led to a guaranteed tax increase because of the way it was structured.

Unlike the Conrad/Gregg commission, the CARFA Act, which would create a task force modeled after the Defense Base Closure Realignment Commission (BRAC) is a prudent mechanism to address our nation’s fiscal problems. The BRAC process led to the successful closure of military bases that were underused. Put in place by Congress in 1990, it would not have worked if it had been tasked with either closing unnecessary bases or raising taxes to pay for unnecessary bases. It worked precisely because it had one job: to save taxpayer money by closing unnecessary bases, and that is the model we should follow now.

As you work to enact the CARFA Act, we urge you to listen to the American people, who earlier this week spoke loud and clear in the Massachusetts special election for the U.S. Senate. Scott Brown’s victory was more than a referendum on healthcare, it was a national referendum on the direction of our country. American taxpayers demand less spending, and greater transparency in the way Congress operates. Consequently, the commission to be created under CARFA should hold its deliberations not behind closed doors, but under the watchful eye of the American people.

The CARFA Act, which has enjoyed bipartisan support in the past, would give Congress a vehicle to bring about the change in direction taxpayers are looking for, and we urge you to support the amendment implementing it.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

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