



Grover G. Norquist

President

April 6, 2004

Dear Virginia legislator,

**I am writing to urge you to oppose and vote against a half cent sales tax increase, or any other “compromise” plan to raise taxes on the people of Virginia.**

**A sales tax increase, and tax increases in general, are bad public policy.** A sales tax increase will raise the cost of living of every person in the Commonwealth, rich and poor alike. It will drain hundreds of millions of dollars out of the economy, and put Virginia at a competitive disadvantage to other states.

**The sales tax increase is also bad politics.** Just over a year ago, voters in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads voted overwhelmingly against a similar tax hike. Northern Virginia voted 55-45% against the tax, while Hampton Roads voted 62%-38 % against it. Together, these two regions make up 47% of the Commonwealth’s population. Those legislators who ignore the will of the people in this vote will have to answer to the people later.

**Further, there is no need for a tax increase.** Virginia’s budget will grow by 11.6% over the next biennium *without any tax increase*. Sen. Chichester’s plan would fund an increase of 18% or more. Delegates can reasonably oppose tax increases, knowing there will be adequate spending growth to fund essential services. And delegates can point to a diverse collection of other states that have met priorities without raising taxes – Colorado, Texas, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Florida, and Massachusetts to name a few.

**Finally, supporting the tax increase will endanger the political position of at least 32 delegates.** The delegates listed below each signed a written pledge to their constituents committing them to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.” A vote for any of these “compromise” proposals will be a violation of that pledge. And a vote by any non-signing delegate will put his or her pledge-signing colleagues in a tough position of having to choose between his constituents and his fellow delegates.

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Allen Dudley (H-9)            | 12. Scott Lingamfelter (H-31)       | 23. Brad Marrs (H-68)          |
| 2. Robert G. Marshall (H-13)     | 13. Dick Black (H-32)               | 24. John S. Reid (H-72)        |
| 3. Allen Louderback (H-15)       | 14. Vincent F. Callahan, Jr. (H-34) | 25. Terrie L. Suit (H-81)      |
| 4. Chris Saxman (H-20)           | 15. Tim Hugo (H-40)                 | 26. Leo C. Wardrup, Jr. (H-83) |
| 5. John J. Welch III (H-21)      | 16. David Albo (H-42)               | 27. Robert F. McDonnell (H-84) |
| 6. Kathy Byron (H-22)            | 17. Jeff Frederick (H-52)           | 28. Thelma Drake (H-87)        |
| 7. L. Preston Bryant, Jr. (H-23) | 18. Frank D. Hargrove, Sr. (H-55)   | 29. Mark Cole (H-88)           |
| 8. Ben Cline (H-24)              | 19. Bill Janis (H-56)               | 30. Thomas Gear (H-91)         |
| 9. R. Steven Landes (H-25)       | 20. Tommy Wright (H-61)             | 31. Melanie L. Rapp (H-96)     |
| 10. Glenn Weatherholtz (H-26)    | 21. R. Lee Ware, Jr. (H-65)         | 32. Harvey B. Morgan (H-98)    |
| 11. Samuel A. Nixon, Jr. (H-27)  | 22. M. Kirkland Cox (H-66)          |                                |

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist