



Grover G. Norquist

President

Nov. 11, 2004

The Honorable Ernie Fletcher
700 Capitol Avenue, Ste. 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Gov. Fletcher,

I am writing to you because of your record as one of the governors who has taken the lead in fighting for lower taxes and growth-oriented tax reform.

As a signer of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, you put in writing your commitment to the taxpayers of Kentucky by pledging to **“oppose and veto any and all efforts to increase taxes,”** and with your thoughtful tax modernization proposal earlier this year, you sought to improve Kentucky’s competitiveness while guaranteeing there would be no net tax increase.

As we all prepare for the new year and the new state budget sessions, we can be sure of one thing – the big-spending interests will be out in force calling for tax increases to fund their growth. Especially after several years of tight budgets that constrained their ability to grow, the big spenders will be working to make up for lost time and secure large tax and spending increases.

As you prepare to face this onslaught, I first want to thank you once again for making your firm commitment to the people of Kentucky. I assure you, I will do all in my power to remind the public about your principled commitment to stand with them against the big spenders.

Second, I want to offer the assistance of all my staff and all the resources of Americans for Tax Reform to help you identify ways to rationalize the budget and avoid tax increases. We have several economists and state budget experts on staff who are prepared to fly to Frankfort and work with your budget team, or with friendly legislators on the budget and tax committees to help produce an economically smart and politically smart no-tax-increase budget.

You will also be happy to know that 51 legislators just won election on a platform to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes” – these legislators signed the same tax Pledge you did, and will be allies in resisting the pro-tax forces. This total is a net gain of three new legislative Pledge signers, a signal that the people of Kentucky are firmly against new taxes.

ATR wants to be your ally in the coming fight next year. I am happy to discuss our options if you would like to talk to me. Or you could put your staff in touch with my State Government Affairs Manager Paul Prososki, at 202-785-0266 or pprososki@atr.org. He will provide whatever assistance is necessary.

Best of luck in the coming year!

Onward,

Grover Norquist