



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Representative Scott Mendenhall and Trevis Butcher **Named** **“Hero of the Taxpayer”**

Activists spearheaded the signature drive to place spending limit measure on ballot

Washington, D.C. - Americans for Tax Reform announced today its decision to name State Representative Scott Mendenhall and Trevis Butcher “Heroes of the Taxpayer” for the month of August. Rep. Mendenhall and Butcher led the collection drive that gathered enough signatures to allow for a spending limit to appear on the November ballot. Staff and volunteers needed to collect 44,615 signatures by June 23 to qualify. On June 20, that number was surpassed when supporters turned in roughly 50,000 signatures to election officials for verification.

Known as the “Stop Over Spending” initiative, the measure would amend the state constitution to limit the annual growth in government. The measure controls state expenditures to grow no faster than the rate of annual population growth plus inflation, and restricts tax increases or spending above the limit unless approved by voters. Surplus revenue above the expenditure growth limit will accrue in a Rainy Day fund with a portion returned to the taxpayers.

“Rep. Mendenhall and Trevis are true heroes of the taxpayer,” stated Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, **“They have taken the lead in a national movement, from Oregon to Maine, to put a halt to the reckless spending in state legislatures.”**

Once a month, Americans for Tax Reform gives away the ‘Hero/Friend of the Taxpayer’ in appreciation of an individual’s (or a group’s) efforts on behalf of the taxpayers. In recognition of their dedication to the principles of limited government and spending restraint, ATR has given this award to several taxpayer activists and legislators who have succeeded in collecting enough signatures get a tax and expenditure limitation on the ballot in their state. Award recipients so far include Mary Adams of Maine Tax Watch, State Senator Randy Brogdon of Oklahoma, State Senator Bob Beers of Nevada, Dave Nabity and Mike Groene of Nebraska, and Jason Williams and Don McIntire of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon. The award is given to highlight a specific action that is beneficial to taxpayers, and should not be construed as an endorsement of the recipient in any way. Americans for Tax Reform does not endorse candidates for public office.

“These two activists are clearly devoted to restoring fiscal discipline in the state of Montana,” continued Norquist, **“They have the courage to stand up on behalf of taxpaying Montanans who deserve prudent and responsible spending of their hard-earned money.”**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or at jkartch@atr.org.