



# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
*President*

May 1, 2008

Dear Legislator,

As the legislative session draws to a close, the debate over increased taxing of natural gas production off Alabama's coast continues. **I write today to renew our call for continued opposition to this dangerous tax hike, and to urge lawmakers to stand up for the best interests of taxpayers in the state by rejecting this and any effort to raise taxes.**

State leaders have stated that economic growth is at the top of the agenda for Alabama. Unfortunately, the governor's natural gas tax proposal is the sort of policy that will send new business and industry running for the hills – away from Alabama. Companies do not seek to invest in states where they are punished for seeking legitimate tax returns – and that is just what this proposal would do.

While any tax increase would cause damage to the state's economy and place a higher burden on Alabama taxpayers, a tax hike on natural gas is especially onerous. A higher tax on gas wells will ultimately drive up prices, and at a time in which energy costs are already sky-high, taxpayers cannot manage the added expense.

Americans for Tax Reform was joined by other consumer and trade groups Monday on the steps of the Alabama Statehouse in speaking out in strong opposition to Governor Riley's \$200 million tax. For additional information on the groups joining ATR in opposing this anti-taxpayer measure, please see the attached coverage of the Statehouse press conference.

On behalf of Alabama taxpayers, I urge you to reject this and any effort to raise taxes as the session continues.

Onward,

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