



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

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WWW.ATR.ORG

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CONTACT: Jonathan Collegio
David W. Kralik
202-785-0266

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Microsoft Decision a Victory for Consumers, Taxpayers

WASHINGTON — With the United States Justice Department's decision to not break up Microsoft, members of the high-tech community and taxpayer advocates alike came together to praise the resolution. The case was initiated in 1997, lasted over four years, cost taxpayers millions of dollars, while hurting the prospects for increased investment in the "new economy" of telecommunications and technology.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, a public interest advocacy group, issued the following statement regarding the decision:

"The Microsoft trial squandered taxpayers' dollars, was a nuisance to consumers, and a serious deterrent to investors in the high-tech industry. But from now on, American taxpayers will no longer see millions of their dollars wasted in a ridiculous case brought on by Microsoft's competitors. Consumers will indeed see competition in the marketplace, rather than the courtroom. And the investors who propel our economy can finally breathe a sigh of relief. **The unmitigated hubris of the Clinton-Gore administration's willingness to meddle in the world of commerce has finally come to an end.**

"Upwards of 60% of Americans thought the federal government should not have broken up Microsoft. With the case over, and the Bush administration indicating its disdain for these kinds of tactics, companies like Microsoft can get back into the business of innovating and creating better products for consumers, and not wasting valuable resources on litigation.

"Competition means creating better goods and offering superior services to consumers. With government out of the business of stifling progress and tying the hands of corporations, consumers – rather than bureaucrats and judges – will once again pick the winners and losers on Wall Street. With the reins off the high-tech industry, more entrepreneurs will be encouraged to create new and competitive products and technologies."

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal and state tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by e-mail at jcollegio@atr.org.