



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

July 30, 2008

Dear Congressman:

I urge you *not* to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 473, the “SAFE Commission Act,” sponsored by Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA). This bill, if passed, would certainly result in a tax increase. Support for this bill is inconsistent with the Taxpayer Protection Pledge.

H.R. 473 establishes a bipartisan commission to recommend wholesale changes to federal spending programs and the tax code. Congress would have to vote up or down on what the commission recommends. Based on my reading of how the commission would be structured, it is extremely likely to result in a recommendation for a massive and permanent tax hike.

Congressman Wolf is one of only a handful of House Republicans *not* to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge.

Interestingly, Congressman Patrick McHenry (R-NC) has a nearly identical bill to the SAFE Act. There is one large difference, though, in H.R. 498, the “CORE Spending Act”:

LIMITATION- The legislation developed under this subsection may not include any new, or any increase in an existing, Federal tax. [Sec. 3(a)(3)]

The Wolf commission bill will result in a tax hike. The McHenry bill specifically prohibits a tax hike. They are otherwise identical. It’s clear that defenders of taxpayers should cosponsor the McHenry bill and *not* cosponsor the Wolf bill.

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Ellis in my office at rellis@atr.org.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist

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