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Sen. Ken Cuccinelli and Activist John Taylor Named “Heroes of the Taxpayer”

Virginia leaders receive national group's monthly award for their work to stop a damaging tax increase gaining steam in Richmond.

WASHINGTON – Despite winning decisively a sales tax referendum one year ago, anti-tax forces in Virginia have been on the defensive ever since Gov. Mark Warner (D) proposed a billion dollar tax increase. They suffered further setbacks as a powerful Republican state senator led the Senate to approve an even larger tax increase, and as the House of Delegates abandoned its no-new-tax position.

But two people stand out as key players who have refused to abandon the interests of Virginia's hard-working families. Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-Fairfax) and John Taylor, the president of the Virginia Institute for Public Policy, have rallied the anti-tax forces in the state to slow, and perhaps stop, the momentum for tax hikes.

“Ken Cuccinelli and John Taylor are doing the heavy lifting in Virginia,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Sen. Cuccinelli is the strongest, and sometimes the only, voice opposing tax increases of all kinds in the legislature. He is working behind the scenes to try to bring his colleagues back into the anti-tax camp. Meanwhile, John Taylor has done a great job of organizing small businesses, workers, students, church groups, and every other segment of society hurt by tax increases into an effective coalition to oppose the big-spenders in Richmond..”**

The “Hero of the Taxpayer” award is given to state or federal officeholders or leaders whose principles and actions defend the American taxpayer, and work to prevent any and all tax increases. Cuccinelli and Taylor join recent winners such as Jason Williams, who helped kill a billion dollar tax hike in Oregon, Rep. Joe Thompson of New Mexico, who killed a \$150 million tax increase, Sen. Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania, who stripped \$300 million of wasteful spending out of the state budget, and John Giles, head of the Alabama Christian Coalition, who led the fight to kill a \$1.2 billion tax increase.

“Sen. Cuccinelli and John Taylor provide much of the energy, and the intellectual foundation, the opposition across Virginia,” continued Norquist. **“Together, they helping the silent majority to speak with one voice in opposition to new taxes.”**

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