



February 24, 2010

Virginia Senate
Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Legislator,

As Virginians are facing a struggling economy, I urge you to reject any and all tax increases that are presented to you. Additionally, do not be fooled by taxes masquerading as “fees or mark-ups.” There is never a good time for a tax increase, but now in these economically tough times, it would be most detrimental to any prospect of economic growth and job creation. In November, the voters spoke and rejected the tax and spend mentality, in turn rejecting the essence of former Governor Tim Kaine’s FY2011-2012 budget.

Specifically, I write today asking you to eliminate the 2% “mark-up” on alcohol bought at ABC stores. This tax increase in Senate Bill 30 remains as one of many remnants from Gov. Kaine’s budget. The markup alone would be a \$4 million a year tax increase. This is a tax increase even if it is called a “mark-up.”

Virginia is currently facing nearly a \$4 billion overspending problem that needs to be addressed. Former Governor Kaine proposed an income tax and numerous fee increases (many of which are really tax increases under the guise of a “fee or markup”) in an attempt to shore up the state’s budget. He attempted to try to make things more difficult for incoming Governor Bob McDonnell by implanting fees and taxes in the budget. Gov. Kaine chose to try to raise revenue to fuel continued government spending in excess; I encourage you to join the voters of the Commonwealth in rejecting this approach by scrapping all remnants of tax increases in his FY2011-2012 budget.

The current problem is not a revenue problem, but rather is a symptom of out of control spending. **I encourage you to address the real problem: overspending.**

Please join the families of Virginia who are working to find ways to make due with less. As they are finding ways to cut their budgets, I urge you to join them in doing the same. If you have any questions, please contact Nathan Pick, state affairs manager, at 202.785.0266.

Onward,

Grover Norquist

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