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Taxpayers Urge Gov. Herbert to Veto Tax Increase

*Utah legislature votes to raise tobacco tax, three legislators break
Taxpayer Protection Pledge by voting to raise taxes*

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Americans for Tax Reform urges Governor Herbert of Utah to veto HB 196, which would raise the tax on cigarettes by \$1 per pack and cost taxpayers more than \$40 million a year. HB 196 passed the Utah House of Representatives on March 2 and the Utah Senate on March 5.

With the passage of HB 196, there were 3 Taxpayer Protection Pledge signers that broke their Pledge to the people of Utah. Sen. Curtis Bramble and Sen. Wayne Neiderhouser in the Senate and Rep. Gage Froerer in the Utah House of Representatives voted for the tax increase in their respective bodies.

“The taxpayers of Utah are disappointed that legislators are not addressing the real problem and cutting spending, but rather are voting to raise taxes. It is always disappointing when legislators choose the tax hike route, but especially when they have committed to oppose and vote against any and all tax increases,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Rather than raising taxes, the state should be cutting more revenue from their budgets; following the lead of families in Utah who are figuring out how to make due with less.”**

With the passage of HB 196, Gov. Herbert has the opportunity to defend taxpayers by using his veto pen to reject this tax increase. In his State of the State address, Gov. Herbert stated that the best path through the current overspending problem is “to exercise continued fiscal restraint and to not raise taxes.”

“Gov. Herbert rightly declared his opposition to tax increases early on in this budget debate and taxpayers are hoping that he will stand by that commitment.” added Norquist. **“I urge the Governor to veto this tax increase, continuing in Utah’s fiscally responsible tradition by cutting spending and living within the means of the revenue currently generated by the taxpayers.”**

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 John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

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