



March 11, 2010

Dear Governor McDonnell,

I write to you in strong support of House Bill 1349, a bill that would require the Tax Commissioner to establish a Virginia Free File program based on that of the Internal Revenue Service Free File program. I urge you to sign HB 1349, a common sense bill that passed the House 86-10 and the Senate 33-6.

**A system that Virginia taxpayers currently pay for would be moved to the private sector.** Under this non-monetary agreement between the Commonwealth and companies in the electronic tax preparation and filing industry, 70% of lower income Virginians would be offered free, online tax return preparation and filing services.

**Moving from a government run tax preparation system to a privately run tax preparation system would encourage competition in the free market.** Under a privatized tax preparation system, there is reason to believe the online tax preparation services would find more tax savings for individuals when preparing taxes, than would a government run program.

As you stated in the State of the Commonwealth address, state spending has grown well beyond the rate of population and inflation for quite some time, nearly tripling since you were first elected to public office in 1991. ATR agrees that **Virginia has an overspending problem and that the state budget problem can be closed by rectifying that problem.**

This program that moves tax preparation from the government's responsibility over to the private sector and other programs such as your plan to privatize ABC stores go hand in hand working to find savings for taxpayers. I urge you to pursue these common-sense ideas and others in order to streamline and make more efficient Virginia's government. If you have any questions, please contact Nathan Pick, state affairs manager, at 202.785.0266.

Onward,

Grover Norquist

722 12<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T:(202)785-0266

F:(202)785-0261

[www.atr.org](http://www.atr.org)