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ATR to Gov. Herbert: Veto Cigarette Tax Increase

Do not discredit Utah's well-known tradition of fiscal responsibility, rather veto the cigarette tax hike and cut spending

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Americans for Tax Reform calls on Gov. Gary Herbert to veto House Bill 196, a \$1 per pack tax increase on cigarettes. After watching the tax increase pass the Utah House of Representatives 39-35 and pass the Senate 19-8, Gov. Herbert is now the only one who can stop this tax increase of more than \$43 million a year.

If Governor Herbert chooses to take no action, this tax increase will become law on March 31.

“Choosing to sit on the sidelines rather than reject a tax increase would make Governor Herbert just as guilty of raising the tax burden on Utahns as the legislators who voted for it in the first place. Tax increases hurt families and businesses, but during a recession are even more so ill-advised,” said Norquist. **“Governor Herbert has the opportunity to show leadership and require the state government to live within its means. Tax increases should not be part of the equation.”**

Inaction on House Bill 196 would not only lead to a tax hike on Utah's taxpayers who buy the products, but is estimated to also hit businesses with as much as \$108 million in revenue losses over the next two years.

“Tax increases are not needed. Utah government should choose rather to make decisions that cut spending as families all across their state and the country have had to do during this recession.”

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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