



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

March 29, 2010

FL House
FL Senate

Dear Legislator:

In the aftermath of last year's budget debacle, Floridians simply cannot handle another tax increase. I am dismayed at the fact that the Senate Commerce Committee has opted to propose just that, passing a new 6 percent tax on bottled water earlier this week. **I urge you to oppose this regressive tax increase on one of the healthiest products consumers can buy – water.**

Proposals such as these are where nanny statism and big government collide. Those in favor claim that by imposing higher taxes on bottled water, government can save the environment. They wish to impose their will on consumers who would otherwise make their own choices about what to drink, raising more money for the government to spend on a variety of pet projects in the process.

In reality, a bottled water tax is nothing more than a symptom of a culture of overspending in Tallahassee. Gov. Crist has proposed a budget that increases spending levels by \$2.7 billion with an unprecedented \$69.2 billion in government spending that completely ignores the economic reality facing Florida's working families.

To specifically tax bottled water is to disproportionately tax low-income residents for leading healthy lifestyles. This is akin to taxing jogging or weight lifting. The environmental argument is flawed – plastic water bottles are among the most recycled of any product.

Revenue-hungry politicians are pushing for higher taxes and more spending, period. Today's bottled water tax is tomorrow's pizza tax. The goal remains the same: Remove money from the productive private sector and use it to line government coffers.

This presents one major problem. Government overspending is what got Florida into this mess in the first place. The state has overspent itself into a \$3 billion hole and rather than exercise restraint, it seems to be pushing for a bigger, more frivolous government. The tax hike du jour involves punishing those who choose to drink their water out of a bottle.

On behalf of healthy, well-hydrated taxpayers, I urge you to reject this tax increase. Government's involvement in the lives of Florida families reaches far enough; telling them what they can and cannot drink in the name of increasing the size of the state crosses the line.

Onward,

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