



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

June 16, 2009

Illinois Senate
Illinois House of Representatives
Cc: Governor Quinn

Re: Opposition to any budget that would require tax hikes

Dear Legislator,

As you know, Illinoisans and Americans all across the country are feeling the effects of this ailing economy. Many are struggling to make mortgage payments, put gas in their tanks, and put food on the table; they don't need any more taxes. There is never a good time to increase taxes, but now it is particularly important not to raise taxes. **I was glad to see at the end of session that the income tax hike proposals to fund the budget had failed, and I urge you to hold strong and continue to oppose any tax increase (income or otherwise) as you continue to deliberate on the budget.**

The Governor's 50 percent income tax hike on the people of Illinois would take the individual income tax rate from 3 to 4.5 percent and the business tax rate from 4.8 to 7.2 percent. This plan would be harmful to the economy of Illinois. Recently, Maryland raised the tax on individual millionaires, and now one-third have left the state. Gov. Quinn also wants to raise taxes across the board. If taxes continue to increase, taxpayers may decide to leave Illinois.

Not only would this plan be harmful to the state, but any plan that would increase taxes of any kind (including taxes that some try to call "fees"). Any plan that would take money from the private sector (individuals and businesses) to sustain or grow government spending is moving in the wrong direction. Overspending is the real problem that needs to be addressed. If the Governor's budget is passed, it would be increasing spending in Illinois by over 60% from 1999 expenditures. This unsustainable government spending should not be the taxpayers' responsibility. During the recent economic boom, states found it easy to spend taxpayer money. This out-of-control spending caused this problem, and tax increases are not the solution. **This is the time to reform Illinois' government, eliminate wasteful spending, identify inefficiencies, and streamline government.**

It is critical to revitalize the Illinois economy with tax cuts, not tax increases. We must lift the burden of larger government from the backs of hardworking taxpayers and consumers instead of further depressing economic activity. **I urge you to stand up for taxpayers and oppose Governor Quinn's tax hike proposal and any other budget proposals that would require other tax increases for funding.** If you have any questions, please contact Nathan Pick, State Affairs Manager at 202.785.0266 or npick@atr.org.

Onward,

Grover Norquist

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