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Deeds Open to Tax Increase

Creigh Deeds Would Sign Transportation Bill That Includes Tax Hikes

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Americans for Tax Reform today voiced its disappointment with gubernatorial candidate Creigh Deeds (D) for his willingness to increase taxes.

In an online interview with the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Deeds was asked, "If you're governor and you get a bill that funds transportation in some form of either general or non-general fund tax increase, will you sign it? Deeds responded that he would "build consensus around a series of ideas that allow us to fund transportation, and yes, I will sign that bill."

"Creigh Deeds has spoken at length about his desire to bring jobs and business to Virginia. Increasing taxes on Virginia citizens will destroy jobs and cause businesses to relocate to other states" said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform. "If Creigh Deeds truly wants to bring investment and lasting employment to the Commonwealth of Virginia, he would be talking about reducing tax burdens on Virginians."

According to the Center for Fiscal Accountability, Virginians already spend 229 days – more than half the year – working just to pay for their share of the cost of government. Virginians will have to work until August 17 – the seventh latest Cost of Government Day in 2009.

"There is never a good time to raise taxes, but hiking them now would be especially detrimental in this economy," continued Norquist. "Agreeing to tax increases is irresponsible. I take issue with Sen. Deeds using 'obstructionist' in a negative connotation when referring to those that stand on principle and fight tax increases. Obstructionism can be good if it means fighting oppressive taxation."

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) 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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