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## Proposed Special Session in Florida May Allow for Tax Increases

*Will Gov. Crist Hold to his Taxpayer Protection Pledge this time?*

Washington, D.C. – There is currently is mention in Tallahassee of a special session of the legislature that could take place as early as December. This special session would take place in order to attempt to generate funds for the Tri-Rail commuter rail in south Florida. Holding a special session to come up with Tri-Rail dollars would be an attempt to attract federal stimulus grants available for other rail projects.

In 2005, while running for governor of the state of Florida, now Governor Charlie Crist signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, making a commitment to the taxpayers of Florida that he would veto any tax increase that came across his desk. Encouraging a vote by the people to increase taxes or signing a bill that specifically contained a net tax increase would be a violation of his gubernatorial Pledge. He has also signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge in his race for U.S. Senate, as has his opponent former House Speaker Marco Rubio.

**“I am disappointed that anyone is talking about raising taxes in the Sunshine State, even more so in this economic climate,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“The people of Florida are already struggling, and now a state that has been a good example in the past is thinking of supporting tax increases for the second time this year.”**

Americans for Tax Reform urges Governor Crist to oppose a rental car tax or any other tax that may come up if a special session takes place. Allowing or supporting a vote on a tax increase is also a violation of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. ATR encourages Governor Crist to hold to his promise to the taxpayers of Florida and veto all tax increases that are looming in this proposed special session.

**“Those calling for a special session to fund Tri-Rail should not be looking to tax increases. They may claim that this funding is a ‘priority’, but if it was truly a priority, it would have already been funded. Items that are left to tax increases are not high priorities, if they were they would have already been funded. If the state wants to throw funding at Tri-Rail, they should find savings in other spending programs that are not priorities.”**

*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](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).*

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