

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 SEPTEMBER 2009

CONTACT: John Kartch
jkartch@atr.org
202-785-0266

Don't Tread on Me: Obama Tire Tax Hits American Drivers

Obama breaks tax pledge, again

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Late Friday night, President Barack Obama [once again](#) broke his central campaign promise not to raise “any form” of taxes on Americans making less than \$250,000 per year. Bowing to pressure from organized labor, he made a decision to place a 35 percent tariff on tire imports from China.

“Make no mistake; a tariff is nothing more than a tax on consumers,” stated Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, **“This decision will drive up the cost of tires, increasing the economic burden on families already struggling with the high cost of transportation.”**

The families hardest hit by this tax increase will be low-income families, since the tariffs will be applied to low-end tires, costing \$50 to \$60 as opposed to the \$200 to \$250 paid for premium tires. According to the [Wall Street Journal](#), Americans can expect to see a 20 to 30 percent increase in the cost of tires.

During the campaign, Obama made a “firm pledge” not to raise “any form” of taxes on those making less than \$250,000 per year:

“I can make a firm pledge. Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.”(Dover, NH) [[Transcript](#)] [[Video clip](#)]

“This is a troubling sign as to where domestic policy is headed under Obama,” continued Norquist, **“With this decision, Obama has put the interests of his union supporters, too fearful to compete in the marketplace, above the interests of taxpayers.”**

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.

###