



AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM

March 6, 2018

To: Arizona State Senate
Re: House Bill 2484 – Uniform Imposition of Local Taxes

Dear Members of the Arizona State Senate,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform, I write today to express support for [House Bill 2484](#), which prevents targeted tax increases on individual products at the local level. This bill represents sound tax policy because taxes should not be used to punish disfavored food, beverage, grocery, or other consumable products at the local level.

The impact of targeted taxes designed to discourage consumer behavior is a reduction in stability of revenue sources over the long-term. Targeted taxes often fall short of revenue expectations, making them volatile and frequently a place holder for future tax hikes on the broader populace. That's why, in general, taxes should be as broad-based and low as possible. This is true of income, corporate, sales and use, and other taxes at any level of government.

States across the nation are increasingly recognizing that the patchwork of local taxes, rules, and regulations impacting small businesses, commerce, and economic activity is worthy of statewide protections and preemption. **HB 2484 would prevent a local patchwork of onerous and inconsistent taxes and is consistent with the conservative principles of sound tax policy.** Tax rate uniformity across the state is an approach supported by ATR and should warrant passage by the Senate.

Local option taxes inherently present a wide range of issues for consumers, commerce, and economic activity. That being said, **HB 2484 simply ensures that if municipalities and governments are granted the authority by the state to impose taxes at the local level, local tax policy will not be used as a weapon against a single product and its consumers.** This is an important consumer protection given the movement nationally to target not only soda, but meat, snacks, and other products that don't fit within the health narrative put forth by the likes of Mike Bloomberg, P.E.T.A., and other well-funded ivory tower elitists across the country who are working to crack down on consumer freedom.

The preemption of local taxes that interfere in commerce, economic activities, and the rights of consumers is a laudable goal. **ATR strongly encourages you to pass HB 2484.**

If you have questions on this or any other issue before the legislature this year, please contact ATR strategic initiatives director Paul Blair by phone at 202-785-0266 or by email at pblair@atr.org.

Thank you for your consideration,

Grover G. Norquist
President
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