

April 6, 2022

To: Members of the Arizona House of Representatives
From: Americans for Tax Reform
Re: Oppose House Bill 2598 and Senate Bill 1356

Dear Representative,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and our supporters across Arizona, **I want to thank you for your commitment to reducing Arizona's income tax.** Thanks to your hard work, Arizonans are close to receiving the largest tax cut in Arizona history. **It is of the utmost importance that you finish the job by accelerating the implementation of the 2.5% flat income tax.**

In addition, **I also urge you to oppose any and all efforts to raise taxes, including House Bill 2598 and Senate Bill 1356.** If passed through the Arizona legislature, **these bills would reimpose the Maricopa Country half cent sales tax hike that was approved in 2004 and, by law, is scheduled to expire in 2025.**

A vote in support of this legislation is “support for” a tax hike. The threatened tax hike could not occur without this legislative facilitation. It is a clear violation of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge.

The intentions behind HB 2598 and SB 1356 are to allow for more hard-earned tax dollars to be wasted on local transit projects. For decades, consultants and proponents of big government have been traveling around the country in hopes of selling politicians on the “benefits” of light rail, street cars, and the like.

As many people across the country and even in Arizona have learned the hard way, these undertakings never turn out as planned. Ridership projections are grossly overestimated while price tags are grossly underestimated, and taxpayers are left on the hook for millions of dollars.

In addition to being bad policy, **tax increases are also lousy politics.** An ATR analysis of recent election results finds that voters in both red and blue states overwhelmingly rejected tax increases at the ballot. Election outcomes are the most accurate polls available, **and they show that the public is opposed to tax increases.**

Thanks to your leadership and commitment to taxpayers, Arizonans are very close to receiving the largest tax cut in Arizona history and Arizona is very close to becoming the national model on income tax reform. Do not let these tax increases undermine your great work.

ATR opposes HB 2598 and SB 1356 and urges you to vote NO. A vote in support of these bills will be scored as a violation of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform

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