



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

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1920 L Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC

20036

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org

Dear Georgia Legislator,

As you deliberate the state's transportation issues, I write to urge you to oppose the plan comprised of HB 1139 and HR 1226 which calls for a one-percent statewide sales tax increase in the form of a constitutional amendment.

Regardless of whether you cast a direct vote or pass it on to the ballot - any tax increase will drain money out of the private economy and productive use. As their tax bills go up, your constituents will see your vote in favor of this legislation as a vote to raise taxes on them, and they will hold it against you come election time.

The Party of Ronald Reagan is the Party of No-New-Taxes, and any vote cast by a Republican in favor of higher taxes will be viewed by your constituents as an abdication of leadership and a betrayal of the principles this party stands for.

Republicans in Virginia learned this the hard way. They not only saw some of their elected officials lose office in the wake of votes cast in favor of higher taxes for the sake of "doing something" about transportation, but also had the senate majority tilt in favor of the opposite party. I am attaching a letter to the editor submitted to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution by Virginia Republican activist Jim Parmelee, president of Republicans United for Tax Relief, who witnessed this loss of legislative control first hand.

But make no mistake, the same rationale applies for any plan to grant local governments the authority to put higher taxes on their local ballots. Providing a disincentive to true reform and taking the onus off of government, any tax increase at any level of government provides a disservice to your constituents.

In light of the ongoing deliberations to address the state's transportation issues specifically, and to reform Georgia's tax structure more broadly, I urge you to make sure that any such approach does not place an extra burden on taxpayers - be it direct or indirect.

Onward,

Grover Norquist