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From the Desk of Richard Blomquist

April 26, 2006

(rev'd 5/4/06)

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

You and I have a great chance to change the way government works here in Wisconsin.

You and I have a great chance to get the growth of government and ever-rising taxation under control at long last.

But we must act today to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

As you may have read in your local paper or seen on the news, there's a new bill working its way through the state legislature called the "Taxpayer Protection Amendment."

The great economist Milton Friedman, one of my heroes, has called this "one of the most well-crafted pieces of legislation I've seen."

That's high praise indeed!

You and I have to live within our means. Our families can't just spend and spend to their heart's content, then demand more money from our neighbors to pay for it all.

Don't you think Wisconsin's government should be subject to the same sort of fiscal discipline?

That's the thinking behind the Taxpayer Protection Amendment.

You and I and the other citizens of Wisconsin are already some of the most heavily-taxed individuals in the country.

Isn't it time we had more of a say over how those tax dollars are spent? Isn't it time we took steps to get the never-ending appetites of government spending under control at long last?

I hope you'll agree with me that it is long past that time.

You and I need to do all we can to push this legislation through. And that's why I'm writing to you today: to tell you how we can do this.

My name's Richard Blomquist, and like you, I'm a Wisconsinite who believes in free markets, limited government, and individual responsibility.

I'm a businessman, running Blomquist Benefits, and I want to do everything possible to make this state an even better place to earn a living and raise a family.

To that end, I've been very involved in the political scene, and am currently serving as the President of the Independent Business Association of Wisconsin.

Over the years, the issues you and I care about have certainly had their ups and downs in the political arena. Wisconsin has led the way in some areas, such as welfare reform and education reform, and suffered in others, as the size and cost of government just continues to rise.

Through all my years of political activism, I've worried that the voice of the ordinary taxpaying citizen has been ignored, as the voices of the special interests and lobbyists have carried the day.

The result? More government and more taxation.

Now, though, I'm excited for two reasons.

- One, is that the Taxpayer Protection Amendment holds real promise for changing the tax and spend culture at the State Capitol.
- And two, that there's a great new organization on the scene that is leading the fight for this legislation and for other causes near and dear to our hearts.

This organization is called Americans for Prosperity, and it has recently opened a state chapter right here in Wisconsin. I'm proud to be affiliated with this group as part of its Board of Directors.

Americans for Prosperity's Wisconsin chapter is made up of thousands of ordinary citizens just like you and me, who want their voices to be heard in the political and policymaking process.

This organization represents the most special interest of all – that of you, me, our families, and other people all across Wisconsin who are sick and tired of ever-higher taxes and ever-increasing spending.

Americans for Prosperity offers a new approach, one that empowers ordinary citizens to fight for the ideas of free markets, individual liberty, and limited government.

Through special Grassroots Training Schools, AFP provides citizens with the skills and knowledge they need to make a difference.

Americans for Prosperity has established chapters in Kansas, Texas, Virginia, and North Carolina, and they're already having success in lobbying their state legislators and changing the way government works in those states. Now, Wisconsin is the latest state to benefit from this grassroots organization.

Believe me, this is a great and long-needed innovation.

For too long, we friends of free markets and limited government have sat back and allowed the special interests to have their way, with their constant clamoring for more spending, more taxes, and more regulations.

And since "the squeaky wheel gets the grease," they're the folks who get listened to. After all, state legislators want to keep their constituents and their supporters happy.

If state leaders never hear from people who want less taxes and less government spending, why should we be surprised that government just continues to grow?

Thank goodness AFP-Wisconsin is now on the scene to change this situation, and speak up for ordinary taxpayers.

And there's never been a time when they can do more good than today.

AFP-Wisconsin is pushing hard for the Taxpayer Protection Amendment, because it can do a great job of getting government under control in this state.

It restrains taxes based on population growth plus inflation, requires the state to offset surplus revenues with tax rebates or tax cuts, and requires voter approval to increase taxes and debt.

Sounds like a good deal to me!

As University of Colorado economist and AFP Scholar Dr. Barry Poulson said,

"The Taxpayer Protection Amendment would allow Wisconsinites, who shoulder one of the nation's heaviest tax burdens, to have a say over how much money the government is allowed to take out of their wallets.

This well-crafted amendment would hold officials who put special interests ahead of citizens' interests accountable for the tax and spending decisions Wisconsin taxpayers have been ultimately forced to pay for."

I believe the Taxpayer Protection Amendment has a real chance to win passage this legislative session.

But it won't be easy.

Needless to say, the lobbyists and special interests who depend on government spending hate the idea of any limits on their ability to feast off taxpayers' wallets.

Groups such as the Wisconsin teacher's union and the left-wing activist group "moveon.org" are already fighting tooth and nail to defeat this legislation.

That's why you and I and Americans for Prosperity must step up to the plate, to demonstrate widespread citizen demand for this sensible new law.

Your support and involvement are an essential part of AFP-Wisconsin's plan for success on this issue.

My friends at AFP-Wisconsin are already doing a great deal to rally citizen interest and involvement on behalf of the Taxpayer Protection Amendment. They're working hard to urge Wisconsinites to contact their legislators and speak out on behalf of fiscal responsibility. They are:

- Airing targeted television and radio ads in key legislators' districts, educating citizens and urging them to pressure their legislators to support the Amendment.
- Holding rallies and speeches across the state to generate grassroots involvement and activity.
- Training citizen activists how to make a difference on this and other issues in special "Grassroots Training Schools."
- Communicating regularly with their grassroots activists to keep them involved.
- Helping citizens sign and mail petitions to send their legislators.
- And targeting newspapers around the state for editorials and letters to the editor.

All of these efforts are intended to show legislators and the Governor that public support is strong and widespread for the Taxpayer Protection Amendment and the type of fiscal discipline it represents.

The legislation is moving quickly, though, so it is essential to ramp up these efforts for maximum effectiveness as soon as possible.

Here's where you come in.

It probably won't surprise you to know that all these outreach and grassroots action efforts don't come cheaply! That's why it's absolutely necessary for our AFP-Wisconsin team to gather as much financial support from individuals like you as possible, as quickly as possible.

It will cost approximately \$185,000 to fully fund this project over the next nine weeks.

Could you join Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin's efforts today, with your most generous contribution?

Any gift you saw fit to make would make a difference in these efforts to push the Taxpayer Protection Amendment.

- For instance, if you gave \$500, you could pay for one week of radio ads in a key state senator's district.
- If you gave \$1,000, you could pay for one week of television ads in another influential senatorial district.
- If you gave \$1,500, we could purchase lawn signs and place them in strategic locations in the targeted legislative districts.
- And if you could give even more, a contribution of \$2,400 would fully fund one of our Grassroots Training Schools, to equip more citizen activists with the tools they need to make a difference in this and other fights.

Of course, any gift you saw fit to make, whether larger or smaller, would provide a tremendous boost for Americans for Prosperity's Wisconsin chapter.

I just hope you can make your gift within the next week.

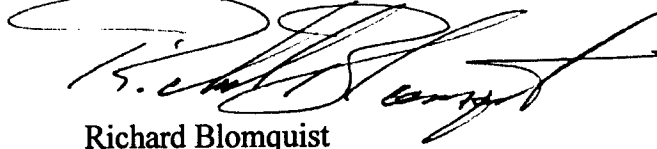
We expect this legislation to go to a vote before the legislative floor period ends in May, so it's essential that we do all we can to push it through.

And there will be more action to come, on a full array of other tax, budget, and reform issues. You can bet that AFP-Wisconsin will be right there to fight for the ideas you and I hold dear.

Please let us hear from you within the next week with your most generous contribution. I've enclosed a reply form and envelope for your convenience.

Thanks so much for reading my letter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Blomquist', written over a large, light-colored oval scribble.

Richard Blomquist
Board Member
Americans for Prosperity-Wisconsin

P.S. Special interest groups who lobby for favors and government spending have had their way for too long. I'm sure you'll agree that ordinary citizens need to stand up and defend our own interests, by speaking out effectively in favor of lower taxes, limited government, and expanded economic prosperity.

Our new Wisconsin chapter of Americans for Prosperity offers an innovative new way to do just that. I hope you'll help us fight for the Taxpayer Protection Amendment and other key causes today.

Help Wisconsin Taxpayers Learn to Stand Up for Their Rights

TO: Mr. Richard Blomquist
Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin
1126 South 70th Street, Suite S219A
Milwaukee, WI 53214

FROM: 

Dear Steve:

Yes, I want to help you change the way things work in Wisconsin's government. That's why I want to support your new Wisconsin chapter of Americans for Prosperity as you help ordinary citizens stand up and defend their rights and their hard-earned money.

To do this, I want to help you fight for the Taxpayer Protection Amendment today. Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$2,400 to fully fund one Grassroots Training School, to train 25, 50, or even 100 Wisconsinites to make a difference for the ideas of limited government and lower taxes.

\$1,500 to pay for yard signs to place in key legislative districts.

\$1,000 to fund one week's worth of television ads on behalf of the Taxpayer Protection Amendment.

\$500 to fund one week's worth of radio ads.

\$250 Another amount: \$ _____

My check is enclosed, payable to Americans for Prosperity.

Please charge my Visa/Mastercard/American Express

Card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Yes, keep me informed of your progress. Here is my contact information:

Email: _____

FW

*Americans for Prosperity Wisconsin is a section 501 (c)(4) organization under the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions or gifts to AFP are **not** tax deductible. AFP can advocate for and against specific legislation at the state and federal levels.*