



John M. Tidwell  
STATE DIRECTOR  
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January 10, 2018

Speaker of the House Charles McCall  
Oklahoma House of Representatives  
2300 N Lincoln Blvd.,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

MR. SPEAKER:

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing you with great urgency and concern over the discussions of yet another grand bargain to raise taxes in Oklahoma. My response is quite simple: "We can do better."

I believe we agree on two important facts: **more government is not synonymous with better government, and our current financial situation presents an opportunity for innovation and fiscal discipline.** Both of these truths are better than a tax hike which will have a lasting, negative impact on our state.

**A tax plan, no matter how grand and regardless of how broad and diverse the coalition that supports it, will only raise taxes on the most vulnerable among us, pushing them deeper in to a cycle of dependency and, in turn facilitate a greater need for government to provide more resources.**

I would simply point to the situation at our state Health Department as an example of the negligence, waste and abuse of precious state resources. Without your leadership and the State House committee charged with publicly investigating the mismanagement of funds, the truth about what is going on at the Health Department would never be known.

We know that dozens in your caucus have rejected 'taking the easy road' by just raising taxes, and I assure you that our activists will not remain silent if the legislature take the path to increase taxes.

I also believe that our state is in dire need of real leadership and could benefit greatly from several of the real reforms which you have proposed over the past many months. Several of those bills are eligible to be heard and considered in the House and Senate. In all honesty, **we know that we have the money – we just need to spend it wisely.**

Lastly, as you know in December Congress passed President Trump's tax reform plan which was sorely needed to relieve the tax and regulatory burden on all Oklahoma families. Governor Fallin even co-signed a letter with other Republican governors urging the Congress to pass the bill and provide relief. Yet in our state capitol the executive only pushes for more taxes from our citizens. If state-level taxes are raised now, the benefits of federal tax reform could easily be negated and the net tax burden may remain unchanged or worse.

I have every confidence that history will not kindly remember a patchwork of 'quick-fix' taxes on Oklahomans instead of curbing government and cutting waste. Americans for Prosperity and our more than 40,000 grassroots activists stand ready and willing to fight against any reckless approach and will continue to advocate for tough reforms.

I hope you will work with us in this endeavor.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Tidwell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Tidwell  
State Director  
Americans for Prosperity

Cc: Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols  
Majority Leader Mike Sanders  
Speaker Pro Tempore Harold Wright  
Majority Caucus Chairman Elise Hall  
Americans for Prosperity Oklahoma Activists