

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0029
(916) 319-2029
FAX (916) 319-2129

Assembly
California Legislature



MICHAEL N. VILLINES
ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN LEADER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
6245 N FRESNO STREET
SUITE 106
FRESNO, CA 93710
(559) 446-2029
FAX (559) 446-2028

December 17, 2008

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

We are writing to request a veto of the Democrat's illegal tax package as contained in AB/SB 2 and AB/SB 9 in the First Extraordinary Session.

AB/SB 2 and AB/SB 9 both include tax increases that were passed by a mere majority of the members of each legislative house. The \$7.3 billion tax increase over the next 18 months is the result of a 2.5% personal income tax surcharge, a $\frac{3}{4}$ cent sales tax increase and a newly created oil severance tax.

Article 13A, section 3, of the California Constitution, clearly requires tax increases to be approved by two-thirds of the members of each house. Article 13A, section 3 is a provision approved by the voters as part of Proposition 13.

The Democrats argue that their proposed reduction to the gas and excise tax offsets their income, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent sales and the oil severance tax increase. This tortured logic eviscerates the core of the constitutional protection adopted by the voters. Clearly the taxpayer who is paying the higher sales tax or the income tax surcharge has experienced a tax increase which should, according to the constitution, require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

This blatant attempt by the Democrats to violate the will of the voters will not resolve our longstanding budget crisis. It is an affront to the voters and taxpayers alike. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your veto of AB/SB 2 and AB/SB 9 in the First Extraordinary Session.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael Villines in black ink.

Michael Villines
Assembly Republican Leader

Handwritten signature of Cameron Smyth in black ink.

Cameron Smyth
Assembly Republican Caucus Chair

Julia

~~John~~ John

Dan Zogac

~~Mark~~ Mark

Nate Allen

Bin Emerson

Jim Nielsen

Andra Feidlad

Ben White

~~John~~ John

~~John~~ John

John Miller

Martin Garrick

~~John~~ John

John

John

Jean Full

Van Tran

~~John~~ John

~~John~~ John

Conie Conway

Hayd. Gilmore

Jim Sike

John

Foster Nicks

Amelia G. Van