



CITIZENS
for
Limited Taxation

44 Years as the Voice of Massachusetts Taxpayers
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Dear CLT member or supporter, past and present;

The historic 44-year era of taxpayer advocacy and protection by Citizens for Limited Taxation is ending.

This is the last letter you will ever receive from Citizens for Limited Taxation.

Your response to it will determine whether — or not — CLT remains a political factor running up to the election in November. After that it will close down, be gone.

Exactly *when* in the next few months CLT will shut down forever now depends on how much this final appeal raises and when that runs out.

You will not be asked again for your support. CLT will very soon cease to exist.

For over four decades Citizens for Limited Taxation has been an exceptionally low-budget grassroots taxpayers' organization existing hand-to-mouth from the contributions of far too few concerned, engaged taxpayers. Even that limited financial support has diminished to the point where continuation has become unsustainable. The time has arrived when there is no alternative to the termination of an historic political icon.

Barbara Anderson always vowed that Citizens for Limited Taxation would never, *ever* operate with a deficit, would not run itself and its staff into debt: If the situation ever arises when not enough taxpayers support keeping CLT's mission going, then the time will have come to shut it down. I call it "The Anderson Doctrine," and this is where CLT has found itself. What must be done has become increasingly unavoidable.

This is the last request for your support that you will ever receive from Citizens for Limited Taxation.

— *Continued* —

"Every Tax is a Pay Cut . . . A Tax Cut is a Pay Raise"

If CLT can stretch this long struggle on behalf of taxpayers for a few months longer from the response to this final appeal, following the election it will then be shut down. If sufficient funds don't arrive, or run out sooner, CLT won't be here for the voting.

Working for Citizens for Limited Taxation has never been a job. For those of us who've done it, it's been a vocation, a calling, an enduring lifestyle commitment.

Since before 1980 and our Proposition 2½ campaign every person who has ever been a staff member over the decades — Barbara Anderson, Chip Faulkner, Sandra, Paula, Loretta, and me — has been unmarried, single without immediate family ties or dependents who'd put demands on our time. Each has been willing to work long hours for low pay, be on-call and available any time of the day or night, ready to respond anywhere around the state at a moment's notice. I've seen our role as a modern-day version of the historic Minutemen, which explains CLT's trademark logo I created.

There haven't been enough funds to support competitive salaries, a pension plan, or other typical employee benefits beyond mandated health insurance. Hand-to-mouth frugality has defined CLT's existence for decades, and that of its dedicated staff.

I tell you this so that you can appreciate why there's never been a long line of applicants beating down our door seeking any of these positions. Few have been committed or motivated enough to even *consider* working for CLT for what little compensation it could offer. A qualified few over the years have all had higher expectations, better options, and after discussions have declined a position. Capable, willing replacements are still not available.

Before she passed away, I solemnly promised Barbara Anderson that I'd do everything in my power to keep CLT going, keep protecting taxpayers — and *especially* important to her, that I'd keep CLT defending our Proposition 2½ property tax limitation — all “for as long as humanly possible.” I have kept my promise to her.

Due to declining support, keeping CLT alive and working to benefit all taxpayers is no longer “humanly possible” without violating her “Anderson Doctrine” of not running CLT and its staff into debt.

Personally, I recognize that I cannot afford to remain in Massachusetts without Citizens for Limited Taxation fighting to hold down my taxes. Currently, well over half

of my income is spent just paying my mortgage and property tax — just so I can be here to keep fighting for taxpayers for some 100 hours every week, 52 weeks a year, while continually pleading for sufficient funds and support to keep doing it. This too will end soon.

When CLT shuts down I won't remain here, and don't need to (see CLT job qualifications above). My plan is in motion for a hasty escape to my soon-to-be adopted truly two-party state with its dominant Republican majority. Life there is much more affordable and taxpayer-friendly, it's not at all "progressive," oppressive, nor suffocating — and is no doubt less corrupt. Simply by moving there I will immediately cut my living costs by over \$2,000 a month, and my 100-hour work week will end. Add to that, the climate is more temperate with an average annual snowfall of just eight inches!

I will soon punch the ejection button on my office chair and bail out — immediately after the election, or even before if operating funds run out sooner.

I hope that together we can make it through the November election, CLT's last hurrah — which will mark *45 years* as the voice of Massachusetts taxpayers.

But if not, then so be it. We've done our best with what we had to work with for as long as humanly possible, gave CLT members and state taxpayers our all.

Exactly *when* CLT permanently shuts down this year now depends entirely on the response to this final appeal for support for extending CLT's final closing date.

I was recently approached by someone who, upon hearing that CLT is likely shutting down, sought to buy our membership list. I rejected that generous offer and will do the same for any future offers. From the beginning CLT has had a strict policy to never, *ever* reveal or give out our members' information; *any* of it to *anyone* for *any* reason — and I will honor that sacred vow as well.

I am hoping this final appeal — along with paying the \$2,500 bill for the printing and mailing of this final membership letter — will raise enough money to keep the CLT website online and available into the future. As you know, CLTG.ORG is an invaluable taxpayer resource which provides a detailed historical record of our "44 Years as The Voice of Massachusetts Taxpayers — *and their Institutional Memory.*" Perpetuating that lasting legacy alone will cost \$1,450 for five years of extended life-support.

You can make a secure donation online immediately at:

<http://cltg.org/contribution.htm>

Finally, please accept my most heartfelt appreciation for those loyal, generous members who have supported and carried Citizens for Limited Taxation over the many years and decades, and especially those who have kept it alive and fighting for all taxpayers through this increasingly difficult recent period.

It's been a long, hard ride together. Over the decades as an organization, you and CLT have collectively provided an *incredible* amount of financial relief for millions of Massachusetts taxpayers — cumulatively *billions* of their own dollars *kept* instead of paid in taxes — whether or not they recognize and appreciate it. In the end, accomplishing good deeds in and of itself is always rewarding.

Great job, Team CLT! “Never have so many owed so much to so few” — for so long!

You have my strongest hope and most sincere wish that something, someone, will come along and step up to fill the void that CLT will leave in its wake — that a *new* and effective voice for Massachusetts taxpayers will arise. It's said that “necessity is the mother of invention.” We shall see.

Thanks for your support,

Chip Ford

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip Ford', with a stylized, cursive script.

Executive Director