



CITIZENS
for
Limited Taxation & Government
The Commonwealth Activist Network

Post Office Box 408 □ Peabody, Massachusetts 01960 □ Email: cltg@cltg.org □ Website: <http://cltg.org>
Barbara Anderson (617) 248-0022 □ Chip Ford (978) 538-3900 □ Chip Faulkner (508) 384-9672

Attorney General L. Scott Harshbarger
Harshbarger for Governor
148 State Street, Second Floor
Boston, MA 02109

September 22, 1998

Dear Attorney General Harshbarger:

It has been a tradition of Citizens for Limited Taxation & Government to ask candidates for Governor of Massachusetts to take the “No New Taxes” pledge.

Governor Dukakis refused to take the pledge. His administration spent beyond its revenues, accumulated deficits, then bonded those deficits with the largest tax increases in state history. In the process, our bond-rating dropped to almost-junk bond status.

Governor Weld took the pledge in 1990 and used that promise as a tool to balance the state budget. The leverage of the pledge ensured the cooperation of the legislature in this endeavor. Because tax increases were not possible, the game of overspending and bonding deficits was over.

The bond rating improved dramatically, the economy thrived, tax cuts became possible, and both the Weld Administration and the Legislature shared credit for the “better government” of the ‘90s.

Governor Cellucci took the “No New Taxes” pledge last year. Now that you are the Democrat nominee for Governor, we hope you will also take the “No New Taxes” pledge and reassure the taxpayers of the commonwealth that no matter who wins in November, the Pledge will continue to be used to avoid a replay of the fiscal crises of 1989 and 1990.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chip Ford
Director of Operations

/s/ Barbara Anderson
Executive Director