

Alberta Darling



State Senate

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TO: Media

FR: John Hogan, Campaign Manager

DT: October 1, 2008

RE: Wasserman violated his "no tax increase" pledge, misleads voters in district-wide mailing

A month ago I asked your indulgence to allow Senator Darling to set the record straight on information or accusations coming out of our opponent's camp. I write you today to dispute the facts of a direct mail piece recently mailed by Sheldon Wasserman to residents of the 8th Senate District regarding the Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) *Taxpayer Protection Pledge* that he signed. A scan of the piece is attached for your review, and below is the claim in dispute:

[Front] "Sheldon Wasserman Has the Right Prescription for Us: Rx for Wisconsin Taxpayers – No New Taxes – Sheldon Wasserman, MD

[Inside] "Sheldon Wasserman Signed a "No New Taxes" Pledge – And Kept His Promise."
Sheldon believes in saving taxpayer money. That's why he broke with his party to sign a no-new-taxes pledge and bucked leaders of both parties by voting to eliminate automatic gas tax increases.

Wasserman has in fact broken his no-tax pledge to taxpayers. We contend that the information in his literature is a bald-faced lie calculated to deceive voters. The truth is Wasserman broke his pledge. Rep. Sheldon Wasserman has violated the ATR No-Tax Pledge numerous times since signing it in 2007. The ATR No-Tax Pledge explicitly states "I WILL OPPOSE AND VOTE AGAINST ANY AND ALL EFFORTS TO INCREASE TAXES." Wasserman has both voted to allow tax increases, and supported other tax increases.

1. Wasserman voted AGAINST the property tax freeze in 2007 (2007 AB 507, 9/18/07 vote 52-45, Wasserman: No)

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2. Wasserman verbally committed to break the ATR pledge by saying he would vote for a \$1.25/pack cigarette tax hike.

<http://blogs.jsonline.com/allpoliticswatch/archive/2007/10/01/27-assembly-members-signed-no-tax-pledges.aspx>

http://www.bootsandsabers.com/index.php/weblog/permalink/update_on_pledge_signers

Committing to break his no-tax pledge earned Wasserman a "Deep Tunnel Award" from 620 WTMJ radio talk-show host Charlie Sykes. Podcasts of Charlie's show discussing how Wasserman broke his pledge, as well as the "Deep Tunnel" episode, are available on our website

<http://albertadarling.com/what.htm>. Look for the heading "Wasserman Broke His Pledge to Not Raise Taxes."

3. Wasserman spoke favorably about increasing the hospital tax.

<http://www.620wtmj.com/shows/charliesykes/15995962.html>

<http://blogs.shorewoodnow.com/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fforum%2farchive%2f2008%2f02%2f25%2fwasserman-addresses-the-village-board-slams-sykes-and-belling.aspx>

4. Wasserman voted against the Assembly Republican budget (2007 SB 40), which held the line on taxes. He hopes to join a Senate Democrat majority that voted to raise taxes by \$18.2 billion, the largest tax increase by a state in American history.

Again, thank you for allowing us to set the record straight on Sheldon Wasserman's status as a tax-pledge breaker. Please call if you have any questions.

John Hogan

Campaign Manager

Friends of Alberta Darling

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