

Coalition Opposes Question 1

October 17, 2002 - Four major business organizations -- Associated Industries of Massachusetts, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Massachusetts Business Roundtable, and Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation -- today announced their opposition to Question 1, an initiative petition sponsored by the Libertarian Party to repeal the state personal income tax.

Question 1 is the most drastic and far-reaching proposal ever put before the Massachusetts voters. According to the proponents, state funding for education and health care would be eliminated to accommodate a 60 percent reduction in state taxes. Not only would this create a political and fiscal crisis of unprecedented proportions, but in the end it would produce dramatically higher property and sales taxes which would fall heavily on low- and middle-income taxpayers.

The income tax, enacted nearly a century ago, has for decades been the principal source of state funding for local schools, higher education, health care, public safety, human services and infrastructure as well as many other services. That is why not a single legislator or Republican or Democratic candidate for statewide office supports this destructive initiative.

We urge the voters to reject Question 1 on November 5.