

For Immediate Release,  
Thursday, February 9, 2006

Contact: Mark Block (414) 475-2975

## **Grassroots Activists of Americans for Prosperity-Wisconsin Back Taxpayer Protection Amendment**

MILWAUKEE – The Wisconsin members of the free-market, grassroots group Americans for Prosperity (AFP) pledged their strong support for a Constitutional revenue limitation amendment unveiled by Senator Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) and Representative Jeff Wood (R- Chippewa Falls) today. AFP-Wisconsin called the Taxpayer Protection Amendment a bold proposal that would help end the tax-and-spend status quo at all levels of Wisconsin government.

“Nearly 70 percent of Wisconsin voters back a Constitutional limit on the growth of government,” said AFP-WI State Director Mark Block. “And Wisconsin taxpayers who have struggled for years under one of the heaviest state-local tax burdens in the nation certainly deserve one.”

The Grothman-Wood amendment would limit the growth in taxes and fees to the three-year inflation rate plus population and other factors relating to community growth, and require that excess revenue be deposited into emergency funds and then returned to taxpayers. Constituent approval would be required to exceed this revenue cap.

AFP Distinguished Scholar Dr. Barry Poulson, a well-respected economist and national expert on Tax and Expenditure Limitations, called the proposal “A carefully-written and well-crafted revenue limit that improves on the tax and spending limits of other states.” Notably, the so-called “ratchet-down” effect on state spending from an economic downturn would be prevented through effective “rainy day” funds that would keep government revenue at the pre-recession high-water mark until the state recovered.

“This commonsense amendment will help put Wisconsin’s bloated government on the path to fiscal health through a common sense, citizen-controlled diet,” Block said. “Senator Grothman and Representative Wood deserve a round of applause from taxpayers around the state who believe there should be a limit to how much government can take out of their wallets.”

Block noted that the Grothman-Wood limit would help boost economic growth and result in billions in tax savings for Wisconsinites, who shouldered a combined state-local tax burden that weighed in as the 5<sup>th</sup>-heaviest in the nation for 2005. Furthermore, by encouraging back-to-the-basics budgeting, the proposed amendment would help the state better deal with economic downturns without raising taxes on cash-strapped citizens.

“This truly is a revenue limit that taxpayers, local elected officials, and our State Legislators can back with confidence,” Block concluded. “AFP-Wisconsin and our nearly 4,000 activists are behind this amendment 100 percent.”

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best safeguard to ensuring individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth, and returning government to its constitutional limits. For more information, visit [www.americansforprosperity.org](http://www.americansforprosperity.org)*

###