

TheStrategyGroup

MEMORANDUM/October 17, 1991

TO: Cal George
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RE: Massachusetts

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In early October, I travelled to Massachusetts along with Jim Savarese to hold discussions about the formation of a progressive tax group in the state, and to attend the State AFL-CIO annual convention.

During the trip, we had the opportunity to meet with several key labor leaders to assess their interest in promoting a fair tax message, and in opposing any cigarette excise tax increases. In conjunction with their efforts, the convention delegates approved a resolution opposing tobacco and other excise taxes. They also approved a resolution committing the AFL-CIO to promoting a graduated income tax structure for the state.

312.
944.7737
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We worked closely with Jim Tiernan, who was very helpful in developing a favorable coalition within the targeted labor groups. He will no doubt be beneficial to our efforts in that state on the fair tax message, and in developing support within key human service and community groups interested in the issue.

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We must work quickly to build a coalition in the state backed by labor and other progressive groups to voice their opposition to the \$.25 increase in the cigarette tax. We are working with AFSCME to enlist their support in this broad based effort, and in supporting a constitutional amendment to permit graduated income tax rates, as well as an initiative to support tightened compliance on corporate income taxes.

We will keep you updated as work progresses in the state.

cc: Susan Stuntz
Jim Savarese
Marty Gleason

