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Tax reform groups, congressmen join to oppose income tax hikes

By Pamela Newkirk

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WASHINGTON — As taxpayers hustled to meet today's federal income tax filing deadline, a coalition of citizens groups yesterday united with a dozen congressmen who are among 79 pledging to oppose income tax increases.

During a Capitol Hill news conference, the Americans for Tax Reform officially launched its biennial pledge campaign, which comes as House members are up for re-election.

So far, all 79 are Republicans, although at least one Democrat is likely to sign on, according to his spokesman.

Grover Glenn Norquist, president of the lobby, which is a coalition of about 12 taxpayer and business groups, including the Chamber of Commerce and the National Taxpayers Union, said the deficit can be tackled through spending restraint and by cutting the capital gains tax to 15 percent. Capital gains are now taxed as regular income at rates up to 33 percent.

The preferential rate for capital gains would yield \$8 billion to \$10 billion a year, he said.

He said the 79 pledges "signals

the strong message members of Congress are receiving from American taxpayers: No more taxes."

Rep. Joseph DioGuardi, R-New Rochelle, holding up his House voting card, said it was "the most expensive credit card in the world" and the reason behind the national deficit.

He said his proposed Truth in Spending Act, which would require the IRS to include with the tax forms it mails a personalized statement that would show how much each taxpayer owes to the national debt, would highlight the spending problem.

The statement would itemize, for instance, how much each taxpayer would owe to Social Security, defense, welfare and the like. DioGuardi, a certified public accountant, estimates the present amount owed by each taxpayer is \$18,569.

"Even though we have unpaid bills coming out our ears, we continue to go on charging more and more," he said.

Rep. Jack Buechner, R-Mo., Rep. Larry Craig, R-Ind., and DioGuardi, in taking the pledge, challenged their House and Senate colleagues to do the same.

Norquist said 112 House and Senate members took the pledge in 1986, including eight Democrats.

Selby McCash, a spokesman for Rep. J. Roy Rowland, D-Ga., said it is likely McCash would again take the pledge because of his opposition to income tax increases.



**Joseph
DioGuardi**