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America's Largest Tax Reform Organization Opens DC Office

To: Washington Media Professionals: Tax, Economic and Government Affairs Media **Contact:** Rob Hartwell at 202-822-4501

Americans for Fair Taxation (AFFT), the largest grassroots taxpayer/tax reform organization in the United States, announced today the opening of its first Washington, D.C. office.

"AFFT is excited about our new office in Washington" said AFFT President and CEO Dan England. "From our home office in Houston, we have been reaching out across America and have grown enormously to almost 400,000 members. AFFT members are in every Congressional District in America, and our new Washington office will add to our tremendous grassroots support in advocating replacement of our antiquated, anti-competitive and blatantly unfair tax system with a national sales tax plan that we call the FairTax."

AFFT's Washington office opens on Tuesday, October 10th, and will be headed up by veteran Washington lobbyist and former House Ways and Means Committee associate staff member, Rob Hartwell. Hartwell will serve as Senior Vice President for Government and Public Affairs reporting to England and the Board of Directors.

Also joining the AFFT staff as Director of Government Affairs is Donna Wiesner a real estate business owner and former official in the Administration of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, and Laurie Carr, AFFT's Administrative/Legislative Assistant, who comes to AFFT via the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

"I'm delighted that AFFT is giving me the opportunity to work with the Congress, a new Administration and the Washington business community to call attention to a flawed and failed income tax system" said Hartwell. Replacing the income tax is an issue that resonates so strongly that AFFT's membership is growing by almost 20,000 taxpayers a month, making it that much easier to be heard in Washington."

In addition to a 12-year Capitol Hill career, including 3 years with House Commerce Committee Member Rep. Mike Oxley (R-OH) and 8 years as Legislative Director and Chief of Staff to former House Ways and Means Committee Member Rep. Dick Schulze (R-PA), Hartwell was Senior Lobbyist for the American Health Care Association and more recently Vice President of Federal Government Affairs for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

AFFT's Washington Office is located at 808 17th Street, Suite 230, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, two blocks from the White House.