



AMERICANS  
*for* TAX REFORM



Center for  
Fiscal  
Accountability

June 17, 2009

The Honorable John Thune  
493 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Government Ownership Exit Plan Act of 2009**

Dear Senator Thune,

We write in support of S. 1242, the “Government Ownership Exit Act of 2009” a bill you sponsored in an effort to protect taxpayers from the liabilities and risks associated with the recent actions of the federal government to acquire direct ownership stakes in private companies.

James Madison once said *“Since the general civilization of mankind, I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of freedoms of the people by gradual and silent encroachment of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.”* In the wake of a series of government interventions into the free markets, taxpayers have been forced to witness the “gradual and silent encroachment” Madison warned of. It is time for an exit strategy.

The Government Ownership Exit Plan Act provides such an exit strategy as it requires the Treasury Department to sell all ownership stake of private entities by July 1, 2010 (unless there is a reasonable expectation the assets will appreciate in value) and prevents the Treasury from purchasing additional ownership stakes through the Troubled Assets Relief Program. And it does so responsibly, by requiring oversight of the divestiture process by the Financial Stability Oversight Board and reports of the Treasury Secretary to Congress.

Consequently, ATR and the Center for Fiscal Accountability urge all Members of Congress to support this legislation, be it as stand-alone bill, or, as currently offered, in amendment form to the Travel Promotion Act of 2009.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

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