



820 First Street NE ■ Suite 510 ■ Washington DC 20002  
 (202)408-1080 ■ fax (202)408-1056 ■ center@cbpp.org ■ www.cbpp.org

September 29, 2009

**RECEIVED**

SEP 29 2009

MAINE ETHICS COMMISSION

Jonathan Wayne  
 Executive Director  
 Maine Ethics Commission  
 135 State House Station  
 Augusta, Maine 04333-0135

Dear Mr. Wayne:

In response to your request for supplemental information regarding our expenditures in opposition to TABOR, I offer the following:

1. **General types of activities of the CBPP to influence the November 3, 2009 TABOR initiative (we have not been involved with the Excise Tax Initiative).**

The Center on Budget & Policy Priorities (CBPP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit federal and state budget and tax policy research organization based in Washington, DC. The organization has a particular focus on the adequacy of funding for programs and services that meet the needs of moderate- and low-income families and individuals.

Appearing on the November 3, 2009 ballot in Maine will be Question 4, a measure similar to a law that was placed into the Colorado constitution in 1992 known as "TABOR". Colorado is the only state to have adopted a TABOR policy. It imposes strict fiscal constraints on state and local budgets. Under TABOR, Colorado experienced a serious deterioration in education, health care and other services. The state's business climate and ability to provide basic services suffered, and the law was later suspended. Since 2005, measures like Colorado's TABOR have surfaced and been defeated in 28 states, including Maine, throughout the country.

CBPP has worked with state groups throughout the country to provide research and analysis on the impact of TABOR on state budgets, communities, families, and businesses to inform the public debate on this issue. This year, in Maine, CBPP has coordinated with state partners to provide public education on the potential impact of Question 4 (TABOR II). Specifically, this has involved conducting policy research on the ballot measure, authoring and releasing a policy research report finding on Maine's TABOR II proposal, serving as a

resource for informational materials, participating in coalition meetings, and sponsoring in-state meetings with Colorado leaders and spokespersons on TABOR.

**2. Scope of total financial activity regarding the initiative**

After a careful review of CBPP records and anticipated involvement through November, we believe that the Center will expend approximately \$38,500 towards public education and outreach on Question 4.

**3. The date on which CBPP raised/spent more than \$5,000 to oppose the initiatives, triggering the duty to register**

Upon a more detailed audit of expenditures (primarily in travel, salary, food, and printing), CBPP exceeded \$5,000 on July 15, 2009.

The estimated breakdown of these expenses follow.

**March 2009**

\$ 300 - Staff Time

**May 2009**

\$ 200 - Travel

**June 2009**

\$1,300 - Staff Time

\$ 200 - Travel

**July 1 - 15, 2009**

\$2,900 - Staff Time

\$ 600 - Travel

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Debra Schwartz  
Director, Finance and Administration