

From: Michael Boskin
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 10:55 AM
To: Fred Keeley
Cc: COTCE Commissioners; COTCE Staff

Subject: Re: Tax Packages

Dear Fred:

While I appreciate your enthusiasm for your preferred proposals and will support the subset I think at least variations of which make sense, I really do not think we can have a series of workshops for individual Commissioner proposals. The idea of the workshop was to develop more information on an entirely new major tax, the BNRT, on which such information is vital for the Commission to proceed to consider whether or not to include it as a centerpiece of our proposal. We all (myself included) have several other ideas--see Gerry's list--that will be discussed and either included or not, with at least some of those that do not command sufficient support listed as supplemental ideas for the Governor and Legislature also to consider.

We really cannot divert time and attention from the vital work of scrubbing the BNRT as well as we can by September 1. Then we will have to decide up or down on it as part of a package; if no, what alternatives make sense as major reform moving the state a long way toward our explicit charge of reduced revenue volatility, increased competitiveness, stronger growth and fairness. Many of the other issues can be included or not as part of the package, but the BNRT scrub is really the fundamental largely unresolved major task at hand and we should not delay that vital task for your, mine or anyone else's specific proposals.

Best,

Michael