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**To: News Media**  
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### **Cal-Tax Praises Stand Against Gut-and-Amend Bills**

Larry McCarthy, president of the California Taxpayers' Association, issued the following comments today in response to a report in the *Los Angeles Times* that the governor is threatening to veto gut-and-amend legislation passed late in the legislative session this month:

“We applaud the governor for putting the Legislature on notice regarding last-minute gut-and-amend bills. The threat of a veto is appropriate. Some of the very largest tax increases and largest new spending programs have been pushed late in legislative sessions without sufficient legislative debate and deliberation.

“In the waning hours before the September 2003 recess, last-minute legislative changes enacted a new state-level parcel tax on rural property owners; a \$7 billion health care tax on employers and some of the largest social programs ever enacted in California. Billions of dollars in tax increases have been attempted late in the session but have failed.

“It is good news for taxpayers that the governor is drawing a line on this bad behavior.”

Cal-Tax has criticized the Legislature in the past for passing so-called “midnight special” legislation and ignoring established legislative procedures for noticed public hearings and public input.

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