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Governor Norquist Doesn't Like the House Impact Fee

Posted on [November 21, 2011](#) by [Jon #](#)

I'm late to this, but I didn't see much discussion of Grover Norquist's statement on the House impact fee last week:

*The nation's chief tax definer, Grover Norquist, has published an open letter to Pennsylvania lawmakers. **He calls the Corbett Administration-sponsored impact fee slated for a final House vote this afternoon a tax. That's primarily due to the amount of money the measure directs to state government agencies.** "Just look at where the money goes and it is easy to see that it does not pass the laugh test when it comes to trying to claim this as a fee," Norquist writes. "Regarding the revenue that HB 1950 would direct to the commonwealth, it goes to increasing revenue for first responder training, transportation infrastructure, health care provider training, and "citizen outreach and education."*

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So the House impact fee is easily the most right-wing proposal on the table right now, but even this is too liberal for de facto Governor Norquist.

My sense is that Republicans are getting tired of Norquist, but even so, this is still probably going to be enough to scare some GOP legislators away from it. And any time they lose Republican votes, they need to make it up with more Democratic votes.

Democrats are therefore in a strong position to influence this legislation, but they need to hold out for the best possible deal – something pretty close to the Murt-DiGirolamo bill. Most Democrats seem to understand this [4 Democrats muddied the message](#) by crossing over to vote with the Republicans.

That's unacceptable. Democrats could have had another great headline about the party-line split that communicated to voters just how right-wing the House bill is. Democratic votes should not be available with major policy concessions. Can't Frank Dermody play this game?

(h/t [Scott Detrow](#))

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