

the Anti-Hunger Advocate

November 2009

The Anti-Hunger Advocate is brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee. To submit material to the newsletter or find out more, visit: www.antihunger.net
801-364-7765

Mavericks storm the Capitol



On October 21, the Anti-Hunger Action Committee marched to the Capitol for a protest at the governor's office. Each participant held a mask bearing the image of former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. Palin had raised the severance tax in Alaska, thereby compensating regular citizens when precious natural resources were extracted from their state. We urged our own governor, Gary Herbert, to be a maverick like Sarah and increase Utah's severance tax.



Multiple newspapers and TV stations covered the event. Many AHAC members answered questions from reporters and got quoted!

With a budget deficit of almost a billion dollars this year, Utah's leaders must get creative in filling the hole. Instead of cutting vital human services (like Medicaid) or increasing unjust taxes (like the sales tax on food), why not tax the big oil companies for taking our resources?

Thanks to all who handed in signatures and marched in the protest. The fight is not over, though. For an action step you can do from the comforts of home, turn the page!



New T-shirts!

Want to help design AHAC's next T-shirt? Come to our monthly meeting Tuesday, November 17, at 5:15 p.m. in the lobby of Crossroads Urban Center: 347 S 400 E. Or contact Sarah with your idea: 801-364-7765, ext. 130, sarah@crossroads-u-c.org

November action step: What's fair?

Utah is facing a budget deficit of up to \$850 million. Our new Governor, Gary Herbert, said he plans to balance the budget by cutting services, not raising taxes. Last year members of our legislature talked about cutting over 40,000 people from Utah's Medicaid Program. That would increase the numbers of Utahns without insurance by about 10% and probably lead to about 40 Utahns dying in preventable ways.

The Anti-Hunger Action Committee believes that our elected officials should make sure everyone is paying their fair share of taxes before cutting services that keep people alive. Legislators should go through special tax exemptions and tax breaks given to the business community and ask themselves, "Is this fair?"

As you can see in the chart, Mon-

tana taxes coal and oil companies a lot more than we do in Utah. In Utah, these companies don't pay sales tax for selling their products, but they *do* use roads built with sales tax dollars! Is this fair?

These companies conduct much

It's not fair to other businesses and individuals in the state when some industries use our roads and schools without helping to pay for them.

Governor Herbert's staff has said he is opposed to raising taxes on these industries. Is that fair?

Ask the leaders of the Democratic caucus in the state legislature to investigate what it would mean to Utah if we followed the Montana model for taxing companies that drill for oil, natural gas, and coal.

Call/E-mail the House Minority Leader and Senate Minority Leader today:

	Utah tax	Montana tax	Utah production	Montana production
coal	0%	3-15% depending on quality and how mined	24.3 thousand tons (2008)	168 thousand tons (2008)
oil	from 0-5%	from .8% to 12.8%	22 million barrels (2008)	31.5 million barrels (2008)
natural gas	from 0-5%	from .8 to 15%	385.4 million cubic feet (2007)	120.5 million cubic feet (2007)

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Representative David Litvack:

dlitvack@utah.gov

801-596-0187

Senator Pat Jones:

pjones@utahsenate.org

801-278-7667

Free turkey giveaway Wed., Nov. 25



**Indian Walk-in Center
120 West 1300 South
Salt Lake City**

**Wednesday, November 25
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
or until supplies run out**

You will need identification for all members of your household.

Adults (18 or older) must have picture I.D., any **ONE** of the following: driver's license, passport, state I.D., or employee I.D. **NO SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS.**

Children must have **ONE** of the following: birth certificate, medical card, immunization card, passport, lease agreement, report card with address of parent, state I.D., income tax papers, or social security card.