

Blankenship, Johni

From: Francis Mogan <fmogan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 3:53 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: PLEASE Vote NO to Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (ie. Bagley's Grocery Tax Ordinance).

"We the people", have spoken many, many times now; (by a vote of the people that hired some of you, and may reconsider a re-hire upon the next general election), to grant the local families exemption from grocery tax during the winter, (2008 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition, which passed by 69+% of the voters...by the way). I am becoming increasingly more curious as to why some assembly members appear to have their own agendas, outside of the will of the voters?

Here's a thought;... as opposed to claiming that the borough, and the cities therein, have to complain that they must either **tax the locals**; or cut funding for schools, libraries, fire services, etc...; Why doesn't someone mention the ideology that we could, (maybe) suggest that the major oil corporations not just pay a fine every year, and actually pay the taxes on the resources that they have made extremely more revenues from than taxing local families for food in the winter could ever provide to the state, or local boroughs? Just a thought.

Again, we voters ask, PLEASE Vote NO to Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (ie. Bagley's Grocery Tax Ordinance).

Francis Mogan , Nikiski voter

Blankenship, Johni

From: Tara Kain <tara_kain@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 10:21 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Public Testimony Denied at April 21st Meeting for Ordinance 2015-03 Sub

Dear Assembly Members,

There will be no public testimony allowed when Borough Assemblyman Bagley's Grocery Tax Ordinance is up for reconsideration at the next Assembly meeting on April 21st in Seward. According to the borough clerk's office, additional public testimony for reconsidered items is not required. The Assembly President can choose to accept or deny it. Mr. Bagley, who is the Assembly President, has chosen to deny public testimony for his own Grocery Tax Ordinance.

He denied it because there have already been 3 public hearings. However, the Assembly has amended this ordinance multiple times since the previous hearings. The Kenai Peninsula residents would be directly affected by this grocery tax increase, yet we are not allowed the opportunity to speak at the next meeting.

The Assembly only meets once a year in Seward. The residents of Seward will not have the chance to voice their opinion on the Grocery Tax Ordinance. The residents of Homer will also not be allowed to be heard. If public testimony had been allowed, the borough annex building in Homer would have been opened for public comments by phone. Yet, the public has been denied these options.

Mr. Bagley could still choose to allow public testimony on April 21st. Time will tell.

Sincerely,

Tara Kain
Co-Sponsor, Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Anchor Point, Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Barb Brodowski <barb.brodowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2015 2:05 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Sales Tax Discussion April 21

Dear Kenai Borough members,

I am a senior citizen living in Homer on a fixed income. I like to follow the policy of 'Buy Local' especially here in Homer.

The Borough of Kenai wants to impose a 7.5% tax on all food items for 6 months in Homer along with a similar taxing policy in a number of other communities on the Peninsula in support of education.

I am definitely opposed to this tax especially on all food when there is no substitute for food.

I just reacted to this proposed tax. With just a touch of a key, I just completed a \$300 purchase with www.smile.amazon.com for items that could have been purchased in Homer. The prices were cheaper, the selection was greater, free shipping, absolutely no tax of any kind and I didn't even have to drive to Soldotna or Kenai.

End result: the City of Homer doesn't get any tax money on my purchase, the Borough of Kenai doesn't get any tax money and the merchants of Homer lose out on \$300.

I am already stockpiling non-perishable groceries for the upcoming summer food taxable months since we are currently in a 'no' tax period and I plan to do the same if the tax period is extended for 6 months.

If I have an urge to dine out, I'll just go down to the Homer Senior Center for lunch – no tax there either.

In addition to not giving the local governments any sales tax dollars, Amazon will give .5% of my total purchase to the Homer Senior Citizens, Inc.

What a win-win situation for me and the Homer Senior Citizens Organization!

The Borough of Kenai has forced me to 'think' outside the box and to 'act' outside the box. It's so sad that the Borough cannot do the same in finding other sources of revenue instead of putting a 7.5% tax on food.

I will continue my practices until the sales tax on food is removed.

There is a saying 'For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction'. I have reacted to the Borough of Kenai's action.

Barb Brodowski

Homer, Alaska