

Agenda Item: M.6
Committee: Policies and Procedures
Page Number: 46 & 49

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
ORDINANCE 2015-03
ORDINANCE 2015-03 SUB

1. ZUYUS, Peter..... Homer
2. KAIN, Tara.....Anchor Point
3. COLLINS, Elizabeth.....Kenai
4. KLOEPFER, Walter..... Homer
5. LAWSON, Kaye..... Sterling
6. JONES, Carl and Tammy..... Homer
7. HALE, Albin..... Soldotna
8. SUMPTION, Tracy..... Homer
9. ANDRESS, Gus and Diane..... Homer
10. COLLINS, Sherron.....Kenai
11. HAYS, Brenda..... Homer
12. MAHONEY, John..... Homer
13. ZUYUS, Peter..... Homer
14. CODY, Meldonna..... Homer

15. KING, Mary E..... Homer
16. KING, Dale..... Homer
17. KING, Mary E..... Homer
18. ANDERSON, Deborah..... Homer
19. BARLING, Geraldine Homer
20. STEAD, Sherry Homer
21. JAMES, Tyson.....unknown
22. VEH, Kate Soldotna
23. JOHNSON, Jackie..... Homer
24. S., Rachael.....Kenai
25. KAIN, Tara.....Anchor Point
26. KITSON, Kathleen..... Sterling
27. HANSON, Deborah..... Homer
28. REPPER, Richard and Irene..... Soldotna
29. MCCULLOUGH, John Homer
30. MANN, Cindy Homer
31. LANG, Susan..... Seward
32. SMOLA, Abby Soldotna
33. ENGLISH, Jackie.....Kenai

34. SHROY, Patty..... Homer
35. LEICHLITER, Melinda Soldotna
36. LARSON, Sherry Soldotna
37. MORAWITZ, Mike Homer
38. HOUSE, Melissa Soldotna
39. BARNES, Mi'chelle Soldotna
40. WOOD, Jerry Homer
41. DOBSON, Patrick and Rhoda Funny River
42. THOMAS-WOLF, Mariah Ninilchik
43. GARCIA, Lisa..... Soldotna
44. LERVOLD, AmandaKenai
45. FARRINGTON, Jerry..... Soldotna
46. ARNOLD, Justin Homer
47. HARDY, Billie..... Soldotna
48. HARDY, Joeunknown
49. FARRINGTON, Jerry..... Soldotna
50. ZUYUS, Peter..... Homer
51. MAHAN, Aaron and Brittany Homer

Turner, Michele

Subject: FW: Sales tax ordinance 2015-03 and 2015-03 sub

From: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>

Date: March 11, 2015 at 7:11:32 AM AKDT

To: "jblankenship@borough.kenai.ak.us" <jblankenship@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "kwolf@borough.kenai.ak.us" <kwolf@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "mnavarre@borough.kenai.ak.us" <mnavarre@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "dbagley@borough.kenai.ak.us" <dbagley@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "smcclure@borough.kenai.ak.us" <smcclure@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "mako haggerty" <mhaggerty@borough.kenai.ak.us>, brent johnson <bjohnson@borough.kenai.ak.us>, wayne ogle <woogle@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "Stan Welles" <stan.welles.kenai.assy@acsalaska.net>, "kellycooper@borough.kenai.ak.us" <kellycooper@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "bgilman@borough.kenai.ak.us" <bgilman@borough.kenai.ak.us>

Subject: Sales tax ordinance 2015-03 and 2015-03 sub

Reply-To: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>

Dear Mayor Navarre and Assembly Members,

On March 17 you will again be considering overriding the vote of KPB residents and instituting the winter sales tax on non-processed foods.

I encourage you to defeat 02015-03 and 02015-03 sub and any effort to re-institute the tax for several reasons.

First, the elimination of the tax was by a VOTE of the residents, twice. It is the will of the people and you were elected to uphold the will of your constituents. That you can override the will of the people, is a KPB rules mistake; if you do it, it is the abandonment of the democratic process.

Next, but also tied for first, is the basic logic for honoring the vote of the people.

A tax on non-prepared food is the most regressive form of taxation. The tax harms young families, fixed income and the elderly. The affluent have no problem with the tax, they spend a larger amount dining out and the tax has virtually no impact on their quality of life.

This tax affects those who can afford it least. Even states with the highest sales tax rates DO NOT tax basic necessities (food, etc.) because of the harm to the non-affluent.

All of you on the assembly fall into the category of KPB affluent and should remember, your obligation is to all the residents of the KPB, not your personal wishes or special interest groups. KPB residents have twice VOTED for this exemption, their vote is called democracy. Please, confirm the decision of the residents and do not fall into the trap of totalitarianism, just because a quirk in KPB rules says you can.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your defeat of this ill considered attempt to subvert the vote of the people. Please vote NO on 02015-03 and 02015-03 sub

Sincerely,

Peter T. Zuyus

907-299-0539

Turner, Michele

Subject: FW: Ordinance 2015-03 SUBSTITUTE

From: Tara Kain <tara_kain@yahoo.com>

Date: March 11, 2015 at 8:09:55 AM AKDT

To: Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Wayne Ogle <wogle@kpb.us>, Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, "contact@endgrocerytax.com" <contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 SUBSTITUTE

Reply-To: Tara Kain <tara_kain@yahoo.com>

Please note: I sent an email to you yesterday regarding Ordinance 2015-03. This email is updated to include Ordinance 2015-03 SUB or any other variations thereof. Please vote NO on both Ordinance 2015-03 AND Ordinance 2015-03 SUB. I personally witnessed about 1,000 signatures for the petition last fall for the referendum to 2008-28, which will be on this October's ballot as Proposition One. When I was getting those signatures, there were literally HUNDREDS of angry and frustrated voters who were demanding WHY our borough assembly members are NOT LISTENING to the people. DO NOT disenfranchise the voters and the will of the people. I urge you to vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 AND Ordinance 2015-03 SUB.

Sincerely,

Tara Kain, Anchor Point, Alaska, 907-399-7900

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska

Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.

- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Tara Kain
Anchor Point

Turner, Michele

Subject: FW: Proposed Ordinance

From: Elizabeth Collins <elcollins@gci.net>

Date: March 11, 2015 at 10:02:03 AM AKDT

To: "Kelly Wolf [kwolf@kpb.us] Blaine Gilman [bgilman@kpb.us] Wayne Ogle [wogle@kpb.us] Dale Bagley [dbagley@kpb.us] Stan Welles [swelles@kpb.us] Sue McClure [smcclure@kpb.us] Brent Johnson [bjohnson@kpb.us] Kelly Cooper [kellycooper@kpb.us] Mako Haggerty [mhaggerty@kpb.us] Mike Navarre [mnavarre@kpb.us] Johni Blankenship" <jblankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Proposed Ordinance

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth M Collins

Kenai, AK

Turner, Michele

Subject: FW: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

From: Walter Kloepfer <w.kloepfer@yahoo.com>

Date: March 11, 2015 at 4:36:55 PM AKDT

To: "kwolf@kpb.us" <kwolf@kpb.us>, "bgilman@kpb.us" <bgilman@kpb.us>, "wogle@kpb.us" <wogle@kpb.us>, "dbagley@kpb.us" <dbagley@kpb.us>, "swelles@kpb.us" <swelles@kpb.us>, "smcclure@kpb.us" <smcclure@kpb.us>, "bjohnson@kpb.us" <bjohnson@kpb.us>, "kellycooper@kpb.us" <kellycooper@kpb.us>, "mhaggerty@kpb.us" <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, "mnavarre@kpb.us" <mnavarre@kpb.us>, "jblankenship@kpb.us" <jblankenship@kpb.us>, "contact@endgrocerytax.com" <contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Reply-To: Walter Kloepfer <w.kloepfer@yahoo.com>

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Kloepfer
P.O. Box 3485
Homer, AK 99603

Blankenship, Johni

From: Kaye Lawson <kbwl@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 9:19 PM
To: Welles, Stan; Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; .
Subject: proposed grocery tax: NO!!!

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

I don't think reading a long email is going to do anything more than keeping it short.

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,

Kaye Lawson
Sterling, Ak

Blankenship, Johni

From: Carl and Tammy Jones, Halibut Cove <ctjones@xyz.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 10:03 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Please...things are tough enough for folks here.

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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Sincerely,

--

Carl and Tammy Jones

**Bay Roamers Water Taxi and Cove Country Cabins
P.O. Box 1333, Homer, AK 99603**

www.halibutcovealaska.com

Toll Free: 1-888-353-2683

Summer: 907-296-2257

Bay Roamers Phone: 907-399-6200

Blankenship, Johni

From: Albin Hale <albinhale@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 8:10 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; .

Sent from my iPad

Dear assembly members

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Blankenship, Johni

From: Tracy Sumption <tracy@printworksonline.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 9:17 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; '
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

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Sincerely,

Tracy Sumption
Homer, AK 99603



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Blankenship, Johni

From: Gus Andress <biocyclealaska@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:10 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; ''
Cc: biocyclealaska@gci.net
Subject: Winter grocery tax

Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Wayne Ogle <wogle@kpb.us>, Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, <contact@endgrocerytax.com>.

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

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Sincerely,
Gus and Diane Andress
Homer, AK 99603

Blankenship, Johni

From: Sherron Collins <twicethedeal44@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:49 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
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Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Sherron Collins
Kenai

Blankenship, Johni

From: captain B <reelpossibility@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 11:05 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: No grocery tax!!

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Brenda Hays
Box 1828

Homer, AK. 99603

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Blankenship, Johni

From: john@groundcontrolak.com
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 12:03 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.) •The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a 2008 citizens' initiative. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, we should have had NO winter grocery tax including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. Only the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. Because...

- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, without regard for the will of the people. The voters were denied their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.

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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,

John Mahoney,

Life long Alaskan and concerned voter
907-299-2476

Blankenship, Johni

From: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 9:07 AM
To: Blankenship, Johni; Wolf, Kelly; Bagley, Dale; McClure, Sue; Haggerty, Mako; Johnson, Brent; Ogle, Wayne; Stan Welles; Cooper, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine
Subject: march 17 assembly meeting
Attachments: 2015-03.docx

Dear Johni,

Please distribute the attached letter to the Assembly and make a part of the record. I will be unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict on March 17. (turning 70 and reaching middle age).

Thank you,

Peter Zuyus

March 13, 2015

Good afternoon Assembly members,

An ordinance 2015-03 has been submitted by Assembly member Gilman to override the vote of KPB residents for the repeal of the "seasonal exemption from sales tax of non-prepared food items"

I respect Mr. Gilman both as a legislator and attorney and count him as a friend. However, in this instance I am requesting that he withdraw his ordinance and recuse himself from any participation to support any ordinance directed at re-instituting the food sales tax.

Although his intentions may be honorable, he does have a direct financial conflict of interest with this piece of legislation. His wife is an administrator and school principal with the KPBSD. The KPBSD is in union contract negotiations and Mr. Gilman and his family could well gain financially, if this legislation should pass. His ordinance and any vote he casts will be tainted by his personal opportunity for financial gain.

This is not an issue of potential or perceived conflict, it is one of direct conflict.

If Assembly member Gilman does not withdraw his legislation and recuse himself, I respectfully request that Assembly President Bagley take the appropriate action to cause him to be recused.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Peter T. Zuyus

March 13, 2015

Good afternoon Assembly members,

An ordinance 2015-03 has been submitted by Assembly member Gilman to override the vote of KPBS residents for the repeal of the "seasonal exemption from sales tax of non-prepared food items"

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Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Peter T. Zuyus

Blankenship, Johni

From: Meldonna Cody <meldonna1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Food tax hits the poor at a higher percentage of their income than the wealthy

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
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- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

I work for the KPBSD as a full time special education aide. I can barely survive as it is, since I have more than 33% of my income already taken out for taxes, insurance, mandatory union dues, and yes, the benefit of a retirement account. I don't know what the future brings for me with cuts in education funding, but taxing food is not the way to go. I spend a larger percentage of my meager take-home pay for essential groceries than

people with larger incomes. This tax hits lower income people much harder than you seem to grasp. Everytime I hear an affluent person seated on the assembly say that taxing food is such a small cost to the year round residents, I am impressed by how out of touch the assembly is with the financial struggles of your constituents. I already drive a 15 year old vehicle, rarely go anywhere, don't eat out, and trust me, I shop carefully for my groceries. If you must raise taxes, do it on luxuries, not essentials. Leave my already overpriced food alone.

Sincerely,
Meldonna Cody
Homer, Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Mary King <mary.rangeview@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 11:02 AM
To: Gilman, Blaine
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Mary E.. King, Homer, AK 99693-7415

Blankenship, Johni

From: dale king <akwaazfl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 1:02 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni
Subject: ordinance 2015-03 and ordinance 2015-03 sub

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member, Johni Blankenship

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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Sincerely,
Dale L. King
Homer, AK 99603

Blankenship, Johni

From: Mary King <mary.rangeview@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Bagley, Dale; Navarre, Mike
Cc: Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Blankenship, Johni; End Grocery Tax; Mary King
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Mary E. King
Homer, AK 99603-7415

Blankenship, Johni

From: G Mail <paragondeb@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 11:59 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; .
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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Deborah Anderson
Homer, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

From: Oceanview RV Park <camp4fun@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 3:10 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; .
Subject: We do not want our winter groceries taxed

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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Sincerely,

Geraldine E Barling
Homer, Alaska 99503

Blankenship, Johni

From: Sherry Stead <sdstead@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:12 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Kenai Peninsula food Tax

Hi

As a board member of Homer Community Food Pantry I can tell you that there are a lot of people and families struggling for adequate food and housing. This tax burdens them even more. I ask you to consider other ways to raise money, I am not apposed to paying taxes at all. . but please do not tax food that will even more burden the ones that are already struggling.

Thank you.

Sherry Stead

Blankenship, Johni

From: Tyson James <tysonalteri@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Resident concerned about grocery tax

This tax is regressive i.e. making the poor poorer. In addition, it will cause people to buy cheaper food increasing obesity and other negative health outcomes.

Please consider a non-regressive form of taxation to increase the education budget such as a small increase in taxes on the largest land owners on the peninsula - if you really want to make a real difference in a positive direction for our Kenai Peninsula communities.

Sincerely,
Concerned resident

Blankenship, Johni

From: Kate Veh <heyoyveh@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 1:06 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; smmclure@kpb.us; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Please read @ nxt Borough Assembly Meeting. Thank you!

March 14, 2015

Dear Mayor & Borough Assembly Members;

I am hoping you will read my letter in public at the March 17th Borough Assembly Meeting. I don't think I am going to be able to make it to the meeting on that date, but I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion via a letter.

First of all, I want to extend my respect to everyone who feels passionately about this issue. Thank you for reading my thoughts.

I support Blaine Gilman's ordinance. The state of Alaska has just revised the state income tax system, ending the ACES system & implementing the MAPA system. This means that the state is not generating as much income as it has in previous years. My understanding is that the state of AK is actually hemorrhaging money, in comparison to years past, so I believe we have to think fast & creatively about how to make up for budget deficits.

I live in Nebraska for 7 years in the 1990's. Everyone there contributed to a state income tax. No one liked it & they all complained about it, & the state of Nebraska was solidly red. However, being the good Mid-Westerners that they were, they always operated in the black. In general, the elected officials tried to figure out ways to save money before stripping away the state's income base.

The state of Alaska has positioned herself in a vulnerable spot, since the vast majority of her tax revenues are based on the oil industry. We need some fantastic leaders who will help us envision a future of economic diversification so that we will be able to generate our revenue from a variety of sources. This will take some ultra-brave leadership & a fair amount of tenacity.

For the time being, since the state's budget has been cut so drastically in such a short time, I encourage you to vote "Yes" in favor of the ordinance. However, you may look at implementing the winter grocery tax for 2-3 years & then re-visit the issue. This would give you the temporary revenue you need to fund your schools while you think of another way to fund the schools.

In the meantime, you may consider following Governor Walker's lead, which was to send out a comment form to Alaskans, asking them how to save tax revenues. This might bring out some ideas about better & more diverse ways of generating revenue. People, in general, are quite creative & ingenious in their ideas & that type of wealth should be spread around for everyone's benefit.

A final word about our local schools . . . I have 2 boys – ages 7 & 10 who attend KPBSD Schools. I've been extremely pleased with their quality of education & the teachers. It's really important to stand behind our teachers, as some of our students come from some pretty difficult homes. Also, it's important to support our families who are trying to make ends-meet & keep their families functional. Maybe we could simply reframe the conversation in more respectful & supportive language. I say that to everyone out there listening to this letter – be kind with your words! We need to let the folks who work with our children know that we've got their backs, & can work as a community to get through difficult times, no matter what the budget or what happens. We need to let them know that we're willing to think creatively in order to fulfill our obligation to our children's education. Most of us have kids, nieces, nephews, grandkids, or friends with kids, and we really, truly, & honestly do care!

Thank you for reading through my letter. I appreciate your time devoted to serving our community on the Borough Assembly.

Sincerely,

Kate Veh

Soldotna, Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Jackie Johnson <boardwalkbakery@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 6:59 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Jackie Johnson
Owner, Boardwalk Bakery
Homer, Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Rachael S <sparkles02@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 9:28 PM
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
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Borough ballot.

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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,

Rachael
Kenai, AK

Sent from my iPhone

Blankenship, Johni

From: Rachael S <sparkles02@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 9:53 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; welles@kpb.us; mcclure@kpb.us; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,

Rachael
Kenai, AK

Sent from my iPhone

Blankenship, Johni

From: Tara Kain <tara_kain@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 2:41 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; .
Subject: Your Vote This Tuesday, March 17

Dear Assembly Members,

I understand that you want to assist the education group by looking for ways to fund them. However, even the School Board voted NOT to support taxing winter groceries as an option, with a 6-3 vote AGAINST supporting Gilman's Ordinance 2015-03. The School Board does not know where they will get funding, but they do understand that the voters have spoken multiple times and they do not want to disenfranchise thousands of local voters. I respect and appreciate their decision.

As for the 2015-03 Ordinance Substitute (changing the 9 month winter grocery tax exemption to 6 months, thereby extending the summer grocery tax from 3 months to 6 months), that is STILL disenfranchising the will of the voters and going against how they voted. If you approve this, or Ordinance 2015-03, that would be giving credibility to winter grocery taxation and the overwhelming majority of voters are strongly opposed to that. It is likely that the voters will vote it down if you do happen to send either Ordinance 2015-03 or Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute to the ballot this October. An elected representative, in my opinion, should listen to his or her constituents and respect the will of the people. I know how the voters have spoken out and voted against winter grocery taxation, by looking at the 2008 and 2011 election results. If brought to the voters yet again on the October ballot, I do believe this will further infuriate the voters. I have heard so many voters say "Why do they keep bringing this back up?", "Why do we have to keep voting on it?", and "What part of NO do they not understand?"

Many local people already see the assembly as not truly representing them and I think this will further antagonize the voters. Those are my thoughts and observations based on listening to the voters and getting feedback from them, both recently in the past couple of weeks, and back in the fall of 2014 when I witnessed about 1,000 petition signatures for our citizens' referendum, now Proposition One on the ballot this October. Our citizens' proposition would uphold the other part of the voter approved 2008 grocery tax exemption initiative by not allowing the borough to give authorization to the general law cities to tax winter groceries.

What I hope the assembly understands, is that while the borough is looking for funding, the people in our community, both in the cities and rural areas, are hurting and struggling economically. Food is a highly regressive tax, hurting the most those who cannot afford it. More friends and neighbors, including the elderly, are showing up at our local food pantries for help with food, their basic necessity. Mr. Gilman has expressed his opinion that the concept of this being a "regressive tax" is our "best argument." While that is not our only argument, not listening to the voters is also a huge one, a regressive tax in our community should matter very much to our elected officials. Just because someone considers the additional tax to be simply the price of a "latte" per week, it actually does greatly affect families with children, the elderly and folks on fixed incomes. This group of people make up a significant percentage of our community.

If you look at the Official USDA Alaska and Hawaii Thrifty Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home (2nd half 2014) chart, at <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/USDAFoodPlansCostofFood/reports>, the monthly cost of food for a family of four is \$767.60. So for example, when a family shops at Fred Meyers in Soldotna, under the full taxation rate that both of these ordinances are proposing, a 6% tax on groceries (the borough's 3% and the City of Soldotna's 3% tax), is \$46 per month. That would be almost TWO DAYS worth of food in one month for a family of four. That is not healthy for the people in our community.

I strongly urge ALL of you to vote AGAINST Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute. Anything other than a NO vote would NOT be listening to the will of the people and how they have already voted multiple times and how they still currently feel about this issue.

Sure, you can bring it to a vote of the people YET AGAIN. However, the majority of people are already very fed up with the assembly recycling the winter grocery tax issue over and over again. It would be nice to have an assembly that supports the will of the people and listens to what they are saying. The assembly could do this by ENDING both proposed grocery tax ordinances with NO votes on both of them this Tuesday, March 17th at the 6pm borough assembly meeting.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tara Kain

Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now, co-sponsor
and owner of Anchor Point Natural Foods in Homer, AK

907-399-7900

Blankenship, Johni

From: Kathleen Kitson <icyhot@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:57 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; .
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
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- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
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- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kitson
Sterling, Alaska
Sent from my iPhone

Blankenship, Johni

From: Deborah Hansen <deborahhansenrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 6:58 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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Sincerely,
Deborah Hansen Homer, AK

Blankenship, Johni

From: Richard&Irene Repper <ireneq@ak.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 8:18 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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Sincerely,
Richard and Irene Repper
47937 Price Ave
Soldotna Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Johnny Mac <john_883@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:29 PM
To: Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Navarre, Mike; Haggerty, Mako; McClure, Sue; Welles, Stan; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Blankenship, Johni; Wolf, Kelly; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

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Sincerely,
John McCullough
Homer

Blankenship, Johni

From: cindy Mann <dodo.baakitty@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 1:35 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

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Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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Sincerely,
Cindy Mann
Homer, AK

Blankenship, Johni

From: Susan Lang <suelang@alaskan.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

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Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Susan Lang
A Cottage on the Bay
13710 Beach Drive
PO Box 3334
Seward, AK 99664

Blankenship, Johni

From: A Cottage on the Bay <onthebayak@alaskan.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
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- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,

Sue Lang
PO Box 3334
Lowell Point, AK 99664
13710 Beach Drive

907-224-8237

(Your First and Last Name, and City)

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: NO winter grocery tax!

Date: Sun, 8 Mar 2015 19:15:10 -0500

From: Abby Smola <dearabby@hotmail.com>

To: dbagley@kpb.us <dbagley@kpb.us>

CC: contact@endgrocerytax.com

<contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03

Dear Assembly Member Bagley,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed.

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that

you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03.

Sincerely,

Abby Smola

Soldotna

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: NO Winter Grocery Tax

Date: Sun, 8 Mar 2015 15:55:50 -0800 (AKDT)

From: fishhut@alaska.net

To: kwolf@kpb.us, bgilman@kpb.us, wogle@kpb.us, dbagley@kpb.us, swelles@kpb.us,
smclure@kpb.us, bjohnson@kpb.us, kellycooper@kpb.us, mhaggerty@kpb.us

CC: contact@endgrocerytax.com

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed.

The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a 2008 citizens' initiative. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, we should have had NO winter grocery tax including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. Only the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. Because...

Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, without regard for the will of the people. The voters were denied their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.

In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The voters said NO with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.

In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that the citizens have the legal right to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.

Now, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of just 5 Borough Assembly members, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and

thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously disenfranchise the will of the voters!

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03.

Sincerely,
Jackie English
1125 Angler Drive
Kenai, AK 99611

Carol Christie opposes 2015-03, Carol Christie from Homer, AK

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Carol <backwoodsalaska@gmail.com>
To: Tara Kain <tara_kain@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2015 7:28 PM
Subject: About the message to the KPB assemblymen

3 of the e-mail addresses do not work - Welles, Cooper & Gilman

--

Carol

www.CChristieArt.com

Dreams Make Life Worth Living!

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Subject: Ordinance 2015-03
Date: Tue, 10 Mar 2015 22:42:25 -0800
From: Patty Shroy <pattyak@gmail.com>
Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Wayne Ogle
To: <wogle@kpb.us>, Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Sue
McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Kelly Cooper
<kellycooper@kpb.us>, Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, contact@endgrocerytax.com

Dear Assembly Members,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed.

I've lived in Homer for 34 years - working, raising a family, and contributing to the community. As time goes by, my life situation has changed as has Homer. It's more expensive to live here and I am challenged constantly in finding ways to afford to stay.

I'm not the only one that faces this challenge - the widely supported Grocery Tax Exemption in 2008 and in 2011 attest to that. As well, economic costs were stated by survey respondents as an issue affecting them the most in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) of the Southern Kenai Peninsula of June of 2014.

"When asked to rank the issues most affecting themselves and their families, the top three 2012 responses were: 1. Economic Costs (selected by 72.9% respondents) 2. Physical Health (selected by 68.4% respondents) 3. Mental / Emotional Health (selected by 46.9% respondents)

When asked to rank the issues most affecting 'the community', the top three 2012 responses were: 1. Substance Abuse (selected by 79.3% respondents) 2. Economic Costs (selected by 54.4% respondents) 3. Mental / Emotional Health (selected by 51.6% respondents)"

<http://www.sphosp.com/joomla2/images/sph%20chna%20report.pdf>

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03.

Sincerely,
Patty Shroy
Homer

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Subject: Ordinance 2015-03

Date: Tue, 10 Mar 2015 21:35:40 -0800

From: Melinda Leichter <melinda.leichter@gmail.com>

Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Wayne Ogle <wogle@kpb.us>, Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, contact@endgrocerytax.com

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the

wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed.

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03.

Sincerely,
Melinda Leichter
Soldotna, AK 99669

From Soldotna, AK

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: No

Date: Tue, 10 Mar 2015 20:17:21 -0800

From: Sherry Larson <sherrymylee@gmail.com>

To: contact@endgrocerytax.com
<contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Please vote NO on raising the grocery tax

Sent from my iPhone

From Kenai, AK, opposes 2015-03

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Leila Gough commented on a link Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now, Kenai Peninsula shared.
Date: Tue, 10 Mar 2015 18:19:23 -0700
From: Facebook <update+kjdmuvjii3mm@facebookmail.com>
Reply to Comment
Reply-To: <e+1ghwwej000zg3gs0h3v005lz7k7g8j00000000000000000000000002uy0e@reply.facebook.com>
To: Tara Kain <contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Just a FYI, these emails are being returned.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Borough Food Tax
Date: Tue, 10 Mar 2015 15:10:23 -0800
From: Mike Morawitz <mbmortz@gmail.com>
Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Wayne Ogle <wogle@kpb.us>, Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>
To: contact@endgrocerytax.com
CC: contact@endgrocerytax.com

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed.

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a 2008 citizens' initiative. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, we should have had NO winter grocery tax including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. Only the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. Because...
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, without regard for the will of the people. The voters were denied their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited

borough ordinance.

- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The voters said NO with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that the citizens have the legal right to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- Now, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of just 5 Borough Assembly members, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously disenfranchise the will of the voters!

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03.

Sincerely,
Mike Morawtiz
Homer, Ak. 99603

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Date: Thu, 12 Mar 2015 09:57:34 -0900

From: Melissa Spargur-House <melissa.house01@gmail.com>

kwolf@kpb.us, bgilman@kpb.us, wogle@kpb.us, dbagley@kpb.us, swelles@kpb.us,

To: smcclure@kpb.us, bjohnson@kpb.us, kellycooper@kpb.us, mhaggerty@kpb.us,

mnavarre@kpb.us, jblankenship@kpb.us, contact@endgrocerytax.com

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a 2008 citizens' initiative. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, we should have had NO winter grocery tax including removal of both the

borough tax and the general law cities taxes. Only the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. Because...

Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, without regard for the will of the people. The voters were denied their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.

In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The voters said NO with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.

In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that the citizens have the legal right to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.

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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Melissa House
Soldotna

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: DO NOT SUPPORT AN INCREASE ON THE WINTER GROCERY TAX!!

Date: Thu, 12 Mar 2015 15:13:45 -0800

From: Mi'chelle Barnes <aknteddy@gmail.com>

Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Wayne Ogle <woogle@kpb.us>, Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Sue

To: McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, contact@endgrocerytax.com

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member:

The voters, have spoken multiple times and overwhelmingly voted

NOT to have an increase in the Winter Grocery Tax. Our State and Federal Constitution requires elected officials to carry out the "Will of the People."

Voters have sent a clear message, "DO NOT INCREASE THE WINTER GROCERY TAX." Please listen to the "Will of the People," and **DO NOT VOTE FOR ANY INCREASE ON THE WINTER GROCERY TAX!**

Respect the voters decision! **Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.**

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
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- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28.

The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.

- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

Sincerely,
Mi'chelle A. Barnes, Soldotna Resident

From: jwood99603@hotmail.com
To: bgilman@kpb.us
Subject: Winter Grocery Tax Matter
Date: Thu, 12 Mar 2015 21:22:45 -0800

Blaine,

We as taxpayers have already stated what we do not want, and what we will not accept regarding a winter tax on grocery items a couple of years ago.

I encourage you to drop the subject of a winter tax on food, or you WILL find yourself out of a job next election. We will rally the troops to vote you out - that simple.

Blessings,

Jerry Wood
Homer, AK.

From: Pat Dobson <pdobson58@icloud.com>
Date: March 13, 2015 at 8:12:46 PM AKDT
To: "swelles@kpb.us" <swelles@kpb.us>
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
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We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries

taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Patrick and Rhoda Dobson
Funny River

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Date: Sun, 15 Mar 2015 12:55:48 -0800

From: Mariah Thomas-Wolf <myriah23@gmail.com>

To: contact@endgrocerytax.com

CC: bjohnson@kpb.us

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a 2008 citizens' initiative. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, we should have had NO winter grocery tax including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. Only the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. Because...

Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, without regard for the will of the people. The voters were denied their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.

In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The voters said NO with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.

In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that the citizens have the legal right to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.

Now, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of just 5 Borough Assembly members, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously disenfranchise the will of the voters!

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am

asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

See you at The Food Bank.

Sincerely,

Mariah Thomas-Wolf
Ninilchik, AK 99639
District 7

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB
Date: Mon, 16 Mar 2015 16:29:02 +0000 (UTC)
From: Lisa Garcia <garcialisamarie@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Lisa Garcia <garcialisamarie@yahoo.com>
To: contact@endgrocerytax.com
<contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

- The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**
- Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
- In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.
- In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.
- **Now**, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008

Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,

Lisa Garcia,
Soldotna, AK

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03
SUB
Date: Mon, 16 Mar 2015 19:17:48 -0800
From: alervold99801 . <amanda@lervolds.com>
To: contact@endgrocerytax.com

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

The citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough voted in October of 2008 by a large majority to support the Grocery Tax Exemption provided by a **2008 citizens' initiative**. When it passed with a 60% approval of the voters, **we should have had NO winter grocery tax** including removal of both the borough tax and the general law cities taxes. **Only** the borough's 3% winter grocery tax was removed. **Because...**

Just three weeks before the 2008 election, the Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 2008-28 which authorized the general law cities within the Borough to continue to levy and collect the sales tax anyway, **without regard for the will of the people**. The **voters were denied** their full initiative, regarding the grocery tax exemption, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.

In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.

In an effort to uphold the will of the voters, a citizens referendum was filed in 2010 to repeal the borough's Ordinance 2008-28. The **borough clerk denied the citizens' referendum**. The Borough was fought through the court system and after four years of litigation, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that **the citizens have the legal right** to repeal the Borough ordinance. Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum on the upcoming 2015 October Borough ballot.

Now, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman has introduced an ordinance to repeal the entire voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. If this ordinance is passed by a vote of **just 5 Borough Assembly members**, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 and 2011 ballot initiatives) will be nullified and the Borough will continue to tax our groceries. This ordinance would further seriously **disenfranchise the will of the voters!**

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Amanda Lervold
Kenai

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Grocery Tax

Date: Mon, 16 Mar 2015 22:02:56 -0800

From: Jerry Farrington <later@gci.net>

Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Wayne Ogle <wogle@kpb.us>, Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Sue

To: McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, <contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Tomorrow when you consider collecting additional tax on groceries, consider this: Taxing alcohol and tobacco products is a luxury tax. One does not have to purchase those product in their normal daily activities and their life would still go on. Only those who purchase the products would pay the tax. When it comes to groceries, everyone needs them to live. But not everyone would pay the tax should it be imposed. Those who have the EDT card does not pay the tax. However those who are too proud to ask for a government handout would have to pay the tax along with those who are barely making it. Look around the community and you can see who can least afford this tax.

Based on the fact that not everyone buying groceries would not pay the tax and those who can least afford it would, this is not a fair tax and it SHOULD not be considered. It is not fair, it is not equal and it is not needed.

Just like any family the government should be able to live within their budget. When wages go down, they adjust their expenses and when they get a promotion, they have extra funds to enjoy. So to should the borough

I urge you to vote NO on this proposal.

Thank You

Jerry Farrington
Soldotna

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: winter groceries sales taxation
Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2015 06:58:07 +0000
From: justin arnold <f.v_just_in_time@hotmail.com>
To: contact@endgrocerytax.com
<contact@endgrocerytax.com>

I want to start off by saying that it is your sworn duty as a Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Member to uphold the constitution and laws off Alaska.

Just last fall of 2014, 1,875 signatures were gathered, which placed the citizens' referendum Proposition ONE on the upcoming 2015 October Borough Ballot. This referendum is regarding winter grocery sales taxation, the deration of the taxation, and the amount of taxation.

As per Alaska statute 29.26.180 section B

“If a petition is certified before the effective date of the matter referred, the ordinance or resolution against which the petition is filed shall be suspended pending the referendum vote. During the period of suspension, the governing body may not enact an ordinance or resolution substantially similar to the suspended measure.”

Because the proposed Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute are in regard to exactly the same issues as the referendum it is an illegal action per state statutes for you to enact either of these ordinances before the referendum has been voted upon. And by doing so you will be failing to uphold the Alaska statues and also opening the borough up to possible litigation.

Furthermore, because Ordinance 2008-28 was enacted three weeks before the 2008 election and the vote on the 2008 referendum regarding winter groceries sales taxation, it was an illegal action and you should seek to repeal it to reduce the possibility of litigation and the financial burden that it could bring upon the borough.

Justin Arnold Resident of Homer Alaska

(I tried to send this to the assembly members but the e-mails are bouncing back)

Blankenship, Johni

From: Joe n Billie Hardy <jnbhardy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:02 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Fw: Support Ordinance 2015-03

Dear Ms Blankenship,

All of my emails to the assembly members were returned undeliverable. Could you please see that they get them? What is their correct address?

Thank you,
Billie Hardy

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Joe n Billie Hardy <jnbhardy@yahoo.com>
To: "bgilman@kpb.us" <bgilman@kpb.us>; "bjohnson@kpb.us" <bjohnson@kpb.us>; "dbagley@kpb.us" <dbagley@kpb.us>; "kwolf@kpb.us" <kwolf@kpb.us>; "mhaggerty@kpb.us" <mhaggerty@kpb.us>; "swelles@kpb.us" <swelles@kpb.us>; "smcclure@kpb.us" <smcclure@kpb.us>; "wogle@kpb.us" <wogle@kpb.us>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 7:19 PM
Subject: Support Ordinance 2015-03

Dear Assembly Members:

Please support Mr. Gilman's ordinance 2015-03 Amending KPB 5.18.200 to repeal the seasonal exemption from sales tax of non-prepared foods.

The sales tax is an integral part of our tax structure. Losing the seasonal sales tax on non-prepared foods has put an additional burden on us property tax payers. It saddens me that voters who approved the seasonal exemption did not realize that the revenues would have to come from elsewhere. Thank you for having the courage to support Ordinance 2015-03.

Billie Hardy
2629881

Blankenship, Johni

From: jhardy@alaska.net
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:38 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Support Ordinance 2015-03

Dear Clerk Blankenship,
I sent emails to all assembly members which were returned undeliverable.
Please get these messages to them for me.
Thank you.

Dear Assembly Members:

Please support ordinance 2015-03 amending the seasonal exemption from sales tax of non-prepared foods.

Not having seasonal sales tax on food has put an undue burden on taxpayers of Soldotna and the borough. Sales tax helps more equitably share the burden.

Thank you,
Joe Hardy
398-4868

Blankenship, Johni

From: Jerry Farrington <later@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:03 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; .
Subject: Grocery Tax

Tomorrow when you consider collecting additional tax on groceries, consider this: Taxing alcohol and tobacco products is a luxury tax. One does not have to purchase those product in their normal daily activities and their life would still go on. Only those who purchase the products would pay the tax. When it comes to groceries, everyone needs them to live. But not everyone would pay the tax should it be imposed. Those who have the EDT card does not pay the tax. However those who are too proud to ask for a government handout would have to pay the tax along with those who are barely making it. Look around the community and you can see who can least afford this tax.

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Just like any family the government should be able to live within their budget. When wages go down, they adjust their expenses and when they get a promotion, they have extra funds to enjoy. So to should the borough

I urge you to vote NO on this proposal.

Thank You

Jerry Farrington
Soldotna

Blankenship, Johni

From: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:50 AM
To: Blankenship, Johni; Wolf, Kelly; Navarre, Mike; Bagley, Dale; McClure, Sue; Haggerty, Mako; Johnson, Brent; Ogle, Wayne; Stan Welles; Cooper, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine
Subject: KPBSD meeting

Good morning,
Dear Johni,
Please distribute this to the assembly,
Thank you,
Peter Zuyus

The funding for the KPBSD is a very important and substantial portion of the KPB collected tax revenue.

I am firmly in support of education of the children of the KPB, but also aware that care must be taken to assure that funds are directed toward the children versus administrative wants. Below are a number of questions that I believe should be asked and answered prior to making a funding amount decision. They are not in any particular order.

The most important consideration should be **Students and Classroom Teachers**. Protect teaches wages/ benefits and student necessities/ activities.

What is the administrative ratio of staff to CLASSROOM teachers. Terms such as "certified" should not be classified as classroom if they are not in the classroom itself. Compare that to real world staff versus line ratios.

The previous superintendent mentioned federal grant programs for non-teaching positions that the KPBSD has deployed, with expired grants, and that the KPBSD wants to continue. At what cost? If they are not direct student related, they should not be a budgetary consideration. Administrative "feel good" should not be considered versus Student Essential.

How many "non-student essential" grant programs is the KPBSD asking to be funded?

Why should the KPB consider funding non-student essential programs.

What is the plan to reduce student transportation costs? Many buss's are on routes with very few students on board? Is the KPBSD planning to contract for less expensive and smaller van type buss's for those routes?

Why does the KPBSD have a finance/ purchasing division just a short walk from an excellent KPB finance department? Is the KPBSD amenable to combining the two and saving considerable funds?

There are many more questions that you are probably considering and perhaps a few of these can be added to your list.

Thank you,

Peter T. Zuyus

Blankenship, Johni

From: Aaron Mahan <knightofiam@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:30 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 and Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Dear Assembly Member,

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 states that the borough needs more money for our education system and therefore wants to reinstate the winter grocery tax. We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the wrong thing to do. This regressive food tax on our community is NOT an option. The voters have spoken multiple times to tell you that we DO NOT want our winter groceries taxed. This includes your proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (6 month versus 9 month exemption, which is NOT what the voters voted for and would also DISENFRANCHISE the voters.)

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Sincerely,

Aaron & Brittany Mahan of Homer, Alaska