

KPB Assembly & Mayor,

Please consider my kind words as you deliberate KPB Ordinance 2017-11 and the new budget.

As you are probably aware, our brilliant legislators (past and present) get together each year in Juneau and spend too much money in support of their "too big to fail" government. Their reckless spending habits were *NEVER* sustainable. Those of us who predicted *their fiscal crisis* can now say "**I told you so**"! Now they want to raise revenue to pay for *their* failure to control cost. Of course this will run downhill, just like a stream of toxic waste does. Do you want to emulate those brilliant legislators in Juneau or will you actually represent the public wishes for smaller more efficient government?

As the state continues sliding into bankruptcy and the economy into recession it is going to have an effect on everyone who relies on handouts from the state. What can those downstream of the Juneau toxic waste plant do? Two options exist, raise taxes or heaven forbid cut spending.

Let's talk briefly about life in a recession. Sales tax revenues will continue to decrease as people become more careful with their money. This example should be exercised by all public officials. To blame those brilliant legislators in Juneau for a reason to increase the tax burden on local people during a recession is bad public policy. It is not possible to tax your way out of a shrinking economy. This is why I suggest you begin making cuts in borough government. There are plenty of places to cut if you dig deep enough into the budget. I will be happy to make suggestions if you are unable to find any.

The other issue at hand is this; voters have repeatedly supported the sales tax exemption on non-prepared foods. Now that they have less disposable income to spend do you really believe their opinion has changed? I think any reasonably intelligent person will consider this highly unlikely. You already know what the public wants. If you choose to disrespect the public's wishes, then don't expect the public to respect you in return.

Get a few miles away from Binkley Street and most people could give a damn about borough government. What they do want is to be left alone and reasonably necessary services delivered efficiently. Do a public opinion survey and you will find people want **LESS government NOT HIGHER TAXES!**

This year please give all tax increase proposals very serious consideration. Forget about what the *cities and borough government think they need* and do what the **PUBLIC WANTS!**

Vote NO on 2017-11; and NO on the mil rate increase. To raise taxes in an attempt to sustain the unsustainable is ludicrous at all levels of government. Instead of raising taxes, figure out how to **provide BASIC SERVICES ONLY and eliminate everything else.**

Most sincerely,

Mike McBride
North of Kenai