

Agenda Item: M.3
Committee: Policies and Procedures
Page Number: 111

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS (2)
ORDINANCE 2015-03 SUB

- 1. ROLAND, Angela Nikiski
- 2. MOGAN, Francis Nikiski
- 3. FREEMAN, Roy Seward
- 4. ZUYUS, Peter Homer
- 5. ZUYUS, Peter Homer
- 6. MORAWITZ, Mike Homer
- 7. STEAD, Sherry Homer
- 8. REPPER, Richard and Irene Soldotna
- 9. MILLER, Sherrie Seward
- 10. MAGUIRE, Brendan Hope
- 11. DESERMIA, Kirk and Jenn Seward
- 12. ELLIOT, Charles Sterling
- 13. MAHAN, Aaron and Brittany Homer
- 14. CHRISTOPHER, Karen Homer

15. CLARK, Eric and Rae Mary Soldotna
16. GARCIA, Lisa..... Soldotna
17. WENTZLAFF, Natalie Soldotna
18. GARVEY, Josh Homer
19. COLLINS, SherronKenai
20. FLOTHE, CherylCooper Landing
21. KEBSCHULL, Danette..... Soldotna
22. MANNING, ken Kasilof
23. HARTLINE, Michele Nikiski
24. HOWE, Duane Homer
25. BECKER, Shelly Soldotna
26. SANBORN, John and Laura Soldotna
27. KAIN, TaraAnchor Point
28. KNIGHT, Nicole Homer
29. BRACKETT, Lawrenceunknown
30. JOHNSON, Chriss.....Kenai
31. SWEIGART, Jayunknown
32. SMOLA, Abby Soldotna
33. LONG, Wendy Sterling

- 34. HOWELL, Faithunknown
- 35. EPLING, Rick.....Kenai
- 36. PRICE, James Nikiski
- 37. MCWHORTER, JoAnn Soldotna
- 38. CHRISTIE, Carol Homer
- 39. MOGAN, Francis Nikiski
- 40. GREGOIRE, Ashley.....unknown
- 41. KAIN, LeeAnchor Point
- 42. CARLSON, Julianna..... Homer
- 43. MCBRIDE, Mike.....Kenai
- 44. BARLING, Geraldine Homer
- 45. PARKER, Allen Soldotna
- 46. ZUYUS, Peter..... Homer

Blankenship, Johni

From: Angela Roland <angelaroland@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:39 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,

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,
Angela Roland
Nikiski, Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Francis Mogan <fmogan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:47 PM
To: 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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- 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,
Francis Mogan, Nikiski (Who must shop for groceries in the, "general law cities", within the borough)

Blankenship, Johni

From: Roy Freeman <frosty2@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:10 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: 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,
Roy Freeman

Blankenship, Johni

From: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 1:31 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni; Wolf, Kelly; Navarre, Mike; Bagley, Dale; McClure, Sue; Haggerty, Mako; Johnson, Brent; Ogle, Wayne; Welles, Stan; Cooper, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Good morning,

During the next assembly meeting you will be asked to consider Assembly member Dale Bagley's ordinance 2015-03 Sub. At the last meeting you heard comments from both sides of the issue. Both sides did agree that a sales tax on food is indeed a regressive tax. However, those in favor of the tax have no issue with regressive taxation and put forth a number of justifications for the tax and their suggestions for those who find the tax a burden. On the other hand, those against the tax highlighted it as regressive, not moral and voted against by KPB residents, --twice. Basically restating that the sales tax suspension IS the will of the people of the KPB.

I ask that you consider the following before over riding the public vote.

Before voting on the sales tax issue here are some facts:

1. A majority of those speaking on behalf of the tax were KPBSD employees or had KPBSD employees in their household. (a definitive self serving position and would receive direct financial benefit from the tax)
2. This is not a sales tax versus KPBSD budget issue- the tax does not exist and should not be a part of a KPBSD budget consideration or an excuse to reverse a democratic vote of the people. The KPBSD budget has **not** even been submitted to the Assembly.
3. Regardless of the rhetoric, the voters of the KPB have twice rejected the sales tax.
4. Assemblyman Gilman stated that he has had many meetings with senior citizens and they would gladly support an increase in sales taxes as they receive a PFD and would like to contribute more to the borough.
5. The average family size on the KPB is **2** not 4 as stated at the last assembly meeting.

One supporter of the tax simply stated that people who feel the tax is a burden should "**eat less**". In other words- send your children to school hungry. By voting in favor of this tax you would support that viewpoint. The State of Alaska OCS considers that child abuse. Do you favor that?

The suggestion that fixed income seniors should cut back, making them have to choose between food and medicine is absurd.

Several stated that people who get their PFD should be happy to give part of it to the KPBSD in the form of a sales tax. If true, then I ask that a substitute ordinance be

introduced to: add the KPBSD to the Alaska State PFD pick & click program OR in the alternative, add a KPBSD pick & click option to the KPB property tax payment page.

This has several positive advantages; those with substantial incomes can donate a significant portion of their PFD to the KPBSD and have a tax deductible contribution. Those of lesser means can contribute according to their means. If Assemblyman Gilman and others are correct about the desire to contribute, this will be more than sufficient to prove their point and raise funds without a regressive tax increase.

The six figure income people who spoke in favor of taxes could simply direct 100% their PFD to the KPBSD.

Some on the assembly are suggesting putting the seasonal tax issue to a vote of the people, **again**, as a compromise. Why? It is an unnecessary expense to the borough and the people have voted NO twice. You already know the will of the people- no compromise is needed, just your acceptance of democracy.

In summary, I also ask that you consider: the people who twice voted against this tax are the same people who voted for you. Several comments were made that the public did not "understand" what they voted for- a typical political ploy; when all else fails- call the electorate "dumb"- Were they dumb when they voted for you?

There are politicians who always vote for tax increases, regardless of the will of their constituents and we have some; please do not be one of them, vote with those who elected you and defeat 2015-03 SUB or **any** attempt to increase the seasonal sales tax on food.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter T. Zuyus

Blankenship, Johni

From: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 2:07 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni; Wolf, Kelly; Navarre, Mike; Bagley, Dale; McClure, Sue; Haggerty, Mako; Johnson, Brent; Ogle, Wayne; Welles, Stan; Cooper, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine
Subject: "Conflicted" about the sales tax exemption?

Dear Johni,
Please distribute to the Assembly and interested parties.

Thank you,

Peter

Conflicted about the sales tax exemption?

Good morning Assembly members,

At the last assembly meeting several of you stated that you were "conflicted" on the matter of the seasonal sales tax exemption and voted in favor of reinstating the tax. Assembly members Wolf and Haggerty used the term specifically.

In the spirit of conflict resolution, I offer the following comments.

Proponents of the sales tax are asking:

--For a KPBSD budget increase of \$3.5 M , during KPBSD-union contract negotiations.

--Increasing KPBSD funds BEFORE a budget is submitted.

--A majority of those speaking in support of the sales tax would directly benefit from the tax.

-- KPBSD student population is and will be dropping significantly in the coming years, obviating the need for increased budget funds. The State of Alaska and the KPB are having a net outward migration population with modest population growth potential. The outflow will be increased with the recent oil price drop and potential military cutbacks (neither of which are in recent studies). The majority of student growth will be in the Mat-Su region. The KPB is forecast to **lose** student population. Modest increases in population growth were pre-oil revenue reductions.

--KPBSD has an acceptable PTR of 16 to 1. However, the ratio of administrative to classroom teacher is bloated, with more than sufficient room for budgetary cutbacks, if necessary, without affecting students or classroom teachers.

Basic negotiation practice teaches that you DO NOT give the other party all they want before you negotiate. This is totally against the basic principles of negotiation strategy,

bargaining techniques, finance and represents poor judgement. There is no bargaining power, if you surrender before the negotiation.

Your constituents were not "conflicted" when they twice voted overwhelmingly for a sales tax exemption. They were not "conflicted" when they voted for you to represent them and their position on KPB affairs.

In the end, I suggest that you use logic, fact and the will of your constituents to vote against a reinstatement of the sales tax on non-prepared foods. Please, do not let special interest groups convince you to set aside democracy.

It is not a good path to travel down.

Do not be "conflicted", vote with conviction and vote with your constituency.

Please vote NO on any efforts to change the current sales tax exemptions on non-prepared foods.

Thank you again,

Peter Zuyus

Blankenship, Johni

From: Mike Morawitz <mbmortz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:44 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; End Grocery Tax
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the **WRONG** thing to do. This **HIGHLY REGRESSIVE** tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary **HARDSHIP** on the majority of people in our community. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is **WRONG** and **UNHEALTHY** for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people:**

- 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 2008 initiative, 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 as Proposition One.
- **Now**, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to **ONCE AGAIN** try to repeal

our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!** WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.**

Sincerely,
Mike Morawitz
Homer, Alaska 99603

Subject: Re: Kenai Peninsula food Tax

Date: Wed, 1 Apr 2015 20:08:01 -0800

From: Sherry Stead <sdstead@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>, Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, contact@endgrocerytax.com

Hi

As I understand it, there is another proposal to tax food an additional 3 months in the winter. As a board member of the Homer Community Food Pantry and a volunteer there on Mondays, I have seen the winter hard ship of our community members and their families. Just last Monday 500 canned goods, immeasurable amount of outdated produce donated from local grocery stores, and all other donations went to homes that need food. Our pantry purchased hams and volunteers provided Easter baskets so our clients could have what most families already have without having to go the the Food Pantry.

Just adding a small amount of money to their weekly grocery bill is taxing the ones that are struggling the most. I am urging you to vote NO on adding 3 more months of grocery tax.

Sherry Stead

Homer Community Food Pantry Board Member

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

Date: Wed, 1 Apr 2015 21:05:07 -0800

From: Richard&Irene Repper <ireneq@ak.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>

CC: contact@endgrocerytax.com

Dear Assembly Member,
Again I ask you,

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,
Richard and Irene Repper
47937 Price Ave
Soldotna Alaska

Subject: NO MORE GROCERY TAXES!!!!!!!!!!!!

Date: Thu, 2 Apr 2015 00:01:35 -0600

From: Sherrie Miller <cabosherrie@gmail.com>

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

To: Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>,
Assemblywoman Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Mako Haggerty
<mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mayor Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Borough Clerk Johni
Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
<contact@endgrocerytax.com>

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 Substitute.

Sherrie Miller

Captain Sherrie Miller
Miller's Landing
P.O. Box 81, Seward, Alaska 99664
www.millerslandingak.com

Subject: Vote NO: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute:

Date: Wed, 1 Apr 2015 23:27:51 -0800

From: Brendan Maguire <maguirepower@gmail.com>

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

To: Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>,
Assemblywoman Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Mako Haggerty
<mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mayor Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Borough Clerk Johni
Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
<contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Don't vote for this.

You are there to voice the will of the people, and we the people say no, we don't want a revenue stream generated from food sales.

If you need to trim the operating budget, if this means that the size of the government shrinks, that services once rendered go away, if public salaries go down, fine. But don't tax the food.

I don't mind paying a premium for alcohol, tobacco or fuel, and I do, but to drink and smoke and travel are luxury choices that I make, and as such, am willing to pay a higher tax rate on. Everyone needs to eat, a tax of this nature will surely generate monies, but the price is far too high. Those able to will leave the peninsula to buy their groceries in Anchorage, those financially unable will be forced to pay despite the fact that the populace has voted against this.

Ladies and gentleman this brings us dangerously close to taxation without representation.

My name is Brendan Maguire. I live and vote in Hope. If you are there to represent me you will vote NO on this Ordinance.

Should you find yourself in my corner of Alaska I'd be happy to share my table with you (tax free) and explain my logic in greater detail over a cup of coffee.

-Regards,

B. Maguire
907 782 3113
65184 Whisker's Way
Hope, Alaska
99605

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase

Date: Thu, 2 Apr 2015 14:38:54 +0000 (UTC)

From: Kirk & Jenn DesErnia <kirkandjenn_des@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: Kirk & Jenn DesErnia <kirkandjenn_des@yahoo.com>

Assemblyman Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Wayne Ogle <wogle@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Assemblywoman Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Assemblywoman Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mayor Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Borough Clerk Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now <contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the **WRONG** thing to do. This **HIGHLY REGRESSIVE** tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary **HARDSHIP on the majority of people in our community**. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is **WRONG and UNHEALTHY** for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people**:

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- 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 2008 initiative, 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.

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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 Substitute.**

Sincerely,

Kirk and Jenn Desermia

P.O. Box 401

Seward, AK

Blankenship, Johni

From: Charles Elliott <charles-t-elliott@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 12:53 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: VOTE NO ON GROCERY TAX

The voice of the people was heard in the vote. Represent the people as you swore to in your oath.
Charles Elliott

Blankenship, Johni

From: Aaron Mahan <knightofiam@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.**

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the **WRONG** thing to do. This **HIGHLY REGRESSIVE** tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary **HARDSHIP** on the majority of people in our community. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is **WRONG** and **UNHEALTHY** for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

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Sincerely,
Aaron & Brittany Mahan, Homer, Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Karen Christopher <kchristopher1957@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 1:04 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

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Sincerely,
Karen Christopher
4510 Thomas Court , Homer AK 99603

Blankenship, Johni

From: Raeanchorage <raeanchorage@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 1:15 PM
To: Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Fwd: We so no to a grocery tax!

-----Original Message-----

From: Raeanchorage <raeanchorage@aol.com>
To: kwolf <kwolf@kpb.us>
Sent: Thu, Apr 2, 2015 1:09 pm
Subject: We so no to a grocery tax!

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

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Sincerely,

Eric and Rae Mary Clark of Soldotna.

Blankenship, Johni

From: Lisa Garcia <garcialisamarie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 2:41 PM
To: Bagley, Dale; Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Welles, Stan; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

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Sincerely,

Lisa M Garcia, Soldotna AK

Blankenship, Johni

From: Natalie Wentzlaff <nataliewentzlaff@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 2:42 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni; Haggerty, Mako; Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Navarre, Mike; contact@endgrocerytax.com
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitutewould **establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.**

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Sincerely,
Natalie Wentzlaff, Soldotna

Blankenship, Johni

From: joshua_garvey <joshua_garvey@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 5:08 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: No Grocery Tax Increase

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S@ 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Josh Garvey <cfo@endofthespit.com>
Date: 04/02/2015 5:00 PM (GMT-09:00)
To: joshua_garvey@hotmail.com
Cc:
Subject: No Grocery Tax Increase

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.**

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Sincerely,
Josh Garvey, Homer, AK

Blankenship, Johni

From: Sherron Collins <twicethedeal44@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:57 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

I would write my own letter, but the following "boiler plate letter" states my position far better than I. Please find another way to fund the school district budget, starting with doing a performance evaluation audit to find out if some school programs are even warranted.

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

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Sincerely,
Sherron Collins, Kenai

Blankenship, Johni

From: Cherry Flothe <ceflothe@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 10:04 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 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Members and Mayor Navarre

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.**

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the **WRONG** thing to do. This **HIGHLY REGRESSIVE** tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary **HARDSHIP on the majority of people in our community**. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is **WRONG and UNHEALTHY** for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people:**

- 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 2008 initiative, 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 as Proposition One.
- **Now**, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to **ONCE AGAIN** try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax

exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!** WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.**

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl Flothe
Cooper Landing, AK

Blankenship, Johni

From: DANI KEBSCHULL <danik@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 12:35 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 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is **NO** winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE** the voters. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.**

Rather than copying and emailing all the information that was in the body of this email, I want to personally say that I am very tired of local, state, and national politicians thinking so little of their constituents. This is a democracy and as our representatives, regardless of how you may personally believe, you are obligated to do as the voters instruct you. What is happening now is offensive and insulting.

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 Substitute.**

Sincerely,
Danette Kebschull
35221 Rockwood Drive
Soldotna
(Kalifornsky Beach Road)

Blankenship, Johni

From: Kasilof Ken <kasilofken@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2015 7:20 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Please NO grocery tax increase!

Hello,
Please do not increase the grocery tax!
I am an older senior, and cannot afford the tax!
Thank you for your time.
Ken Manning,
kasilofken@gmail.com

Blankenship, Johni

From: Michele Hartline <hartlines@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 6:31 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03

I am asking that you respect the will of the people of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, through their votes, and vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 (Substitute).

Respectfully,
Michele Hartline
Nikiski

Blankenship, Johni

From: Duane Howe <drduhowe@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2015 5:10 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan
Cc: McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.**

I want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the **WRONG** thing to do. This **HIGHLY REGRESSIVE** tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary **HARDSHIP** on the majority of people in our community. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is **WRONG** and **UNHEALTHY** for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

Duane Howe
41640 Gladys Ct
Homer, Ak 99603
907-2359477
duhowe@alaska.net

Blankenship, Johni

From: Shell Becker <geminimuse@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2015 7:51 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: NO to Grocery Tax Increase!

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

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If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people**:

- 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 2008 initiative, through this inappropriate and mean-spirited borough ordinance.
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2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!** WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.**

Sincerely,
Shelly Becker
Soldotna

Blankenship, Johni

From: John Sanborn <jws38stu@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2015 8:04 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Food tax

Greetings everyone,

This has always been an ongoing battle from my government: tax food! Why do those that have plenty feel the need to tax something so vital to everyone? Please remember that not everyone has it easy and to tax food means buying the cheaper foods which we know to be unhealthy for people, animals and the Earth. It is not the right thing to do! If you need to raise revenue ask us the voters on how this might best be done. When you go to vote on whether or not to tax food, remember this "Don't tax FOOD, ever! It is wrong to tax food. Have I made it clear on how we feel about this? If not remember we are an active voting family....

Sincerely,

John and Laura Sanborn
380 West Arlington Avenue
Soldotna, AK 99669

Blankenship, Johni

From: Tara Kain <tara_kain@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 2:56 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute

Dear Assembly Members,

I am URGING you to Vote NO this Tuesday on Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute (Bagley's Grocery Tax Ordinance).

Several assembly members have said that taxing our groceries will benefit children's education. Before EVEN CONSIDERING taxing our food, one of life's basic necessities, please take a look at the following statistics, and how taxing our food would GREATLY AFFECT CHILDREN in our community:

- Nearly one in five children in America struggle with hunger. 1
- 10.5 million kids eligible for free or reduced-price school breakfast do not get it. 2
- Food pantries are intended to provide food assistance in emergency situations, rather than meet longer-term needs. 1
- Lack of enough nutritious food impairs a child's ability to concentrate and perform well in school. 1

One assembly member said that this grocery tax is not regressive:

- According to Dictionary.com, the definition of a "Regressive Tax" is a tax that takes a higher percentage of low incomes than high ones. Sales taxes, especially on FOOD, clothing, medicine, and other basic necessities are widely cited as examples of regressive taxes.

One assembly member implied that those who struggle with the cost of groceries can use their PFD for additional grocery taxes.

- Numerous local voters, after hearing this, were VERY infuriated that an elected official would EVEN IMPLY how they should use THEIR PFD money.

Another assembly member asked "where will the money come from?"

- Perhaps a hard look should be taken at exactly how many boroughs in the state of Alaska fund to, or even close to, the educational cap.
- And also take a look at why our Kenai Peninsula Borough spends close to \$5,000 per student per year versus the comparable Mat-Su and Fairbanks North Star Boroughs' which spend significantly less.

And if more reasons are needed to Vote NO, please consider the following:

- A vote for more grocery tax WILL DISENFRANCHISE the voters and will be AGAINST the WILL OF THE PEOPLE. The voters have spoken in 2008 and again in 2011 in favor of the grocery tax exemption. It may be "legal" for the assembly to overturn voters' initiatives after 2 years, but it is VERY WRONG to go against the will of the voters.
- There are about 80 public comments that have been emailed to the borough assembly in regards to grocery tax ordinance 2015-03 and the substitute. The vast majority of them are AGAINST the GROCERY TAX. According to these public comments, well over 90% of them want you to Vote NO on Bagley's Ordinance.

- Even the School Board, who would receive this tax revenue, voted 6-3 AGAINST supporting the grocery tax increase. They realized that the voters have spoken and they did NOT want to go against the will of the voters.

I am hopeful that you will make the right decision as well, and Vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

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

Sources:

1. Childhood Hunger Facts: <http://www.nokidhungry.org/problem/hunger-resources#>
2. Source: Food Research and Action Center, School Breakfast Scorecard

From: **Nickie Jo** <nickieknight@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 6:03 PM

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03

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>

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,
Nicole Knight
Homer, Alaska

Date: Wed, 1 Apr 2015 08:54:46 -0800

From: LB <larbrack@gmail.com>

To: kwolf@borough.kenai.ak.us, bgilman@borough.kenai.ak.us, wogle@borough.kenai.ak.us, swelles@borough.kenai.ak.us, smcclure@borough.kenai.ak.us, bjohnson@borough.kenai.ak.us, kellycooper@borough.kenai.ak.us, mhaggerty@borough.kenai.ak.us, mnavarre@borough.kenai.ak.us, contact@endgrocerytax.com

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

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If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people:**

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- **Now**, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to **ONCE AGAIN** try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!** WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.**

Sincerely, Lawrence Brackett

Subject: grocery tax

Date: Thu, 2 Apr 2015 00:19:08 +0000 (UTC)

From: chriss johnson <kenailady1@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: chriss johnson <kenailady1@yahoo.com>

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

To: Assemblywoman Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Assemblywoman Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mayor Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Borough Clerk Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now <contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said NO more grocery taxation. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly DISENFRANCHISE the voters. Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the WRONG thing to do. This HIGHLY REGRESSIVE tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary HARDSHIP on the majority of people in our community. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is WRONG and UNHEALTHY for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people:

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Sincerely,

Christina Johnson
Kenai, AK

Psalm 33:12: Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Subject: I am please vote no
Date: Thu, 2 Apr 2015 04:55:38 -0700
From: Jay Sweigart
<amilostinak@gmail.com>
To: contact@endgrocerytax.com

I am asking that u vote no please

Jay Sweigart

down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to **ONCE AGAIN** try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!** WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO THE VOTERS?**

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Sincerely,

Abby Smola

Soldotna

Subject: VOTE NO!!!!

Date: Fri, 3 Apr 2015 18:20:50 -0700

From: Wendy Long <wendyann74@yahoo.com>

Assemblyman Kelly Wolf <kwolf@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Blaine Gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Wayne Ogle <wole@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Dale Bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Stan Welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Assemblywoman Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, Assemblywoman Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Mako Haggerty <mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mayor Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Borough Clerk Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now <contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Members,

First, as a mother of 4 and wife I am appalled at how little you care about the people of this borough. We are struggling and you want to tax us more? The more I am taxed the less I can spend (which correlates into less groceries in my house). I may live in Sterling but I spend money at several different stores in the borough in different cities so although I may not vote in your area I do purchase groceries etc for my family and depending on how you vote on this is whether I will spend money in your DISTRICT. I am sure the business owners in your district will appreciate this as I am sending all of them emails explaining why I won't shop in their stores any more. I am sure you are not reading each email but would appreciate it if you did because this is my life, my families life and the lives of the people in our community your making decisions about.

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said NO more grocery taxation. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly DISENFRANCHISE the voters. Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.

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If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people: •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 2008 initiative, 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 as Proposition One.

- Now, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to ONCE AGAIN try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to REDUCE our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS! WHY is the borough assembly NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.

Sincerely,
Wendy Long, Sterling

Subject: Grocery Tax

Date: Sun, 5 Apr 2015 00:17:39 +0000

From: faithhowell@aol.com

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

Please don't place this burden on us during the current economic crisis!!! We are suffering already.

Sent from Windows Mail

Subject: Grocery Tax

Date: Sat, 4 Apr 2015 17:23:07 -0800

From: Rick Epling
<ricke162@gmail.com>

To: contact@endgrocerytax.com

NO to grocery tax!!!

Rick Epling
Kenai

Subject: KPB 2015-03 Substitute

Date: Mon, 06 Apr 2015 01:57:18 -0800

From: James Price <jpriceak@gmail.com>

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

To: Sue McClure <smcclure@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Brent Johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>,
Assemblywoman Kelly Cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, Assemblyman Mako Haggerty
<mhaggerty@kpb.us>, Mayor Mike Navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, Borough Clerk Johni
Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
<contact@endgrocerytax.com>

Dear Assembly,

I OPPOSE ordinance 2015-03. I oppose the action by the Assembly to promote legislation that will subvert to voters' will as expressed in our 2008 ballot initiative.

I believe that this ordinance is driven by a desire primarily to obstruct the will of the borough voters, so that the cities of Kenai and Soldotna can continue to tax the other guy in order to subsidize the cost of city government at the personal expense of rural residents, who already support the costs of the local city government. City property taxes are already MUCH LOWER than the property tax burden of rural residents. To argue that rural residents owe the cities more tax money that the already receive from rural residents is absurd.

This really isn't about funding education. The school board didn't accept that reasoning and opposed the resolution in support of Gilman's tax grab, even though they want the money. There are better way to fully fund education, if that is truly what the Borough is trying to achieve.

This Assembly will not be successful in any attempt to further raise grocery taxes. This body should end this misguided backdoor attempt to circumvent the will of the people. Represent the people you were elected to serve. Vote NO on ordinance 2015-03.

Sincerely,

James Price
Nikiski, Alaska

Subject: food taxes

Date: Mon, 6 Apr 2015 08:45:52 -0700

From: JoAnn McWhorter <quality_snow_plowing@yahoo.com>

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

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said NO more grocery taxation. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly DISENFRANCHISE the voters. Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the WRONG thing to do. This HIGHLY REGRESSIVE tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary HARDSHIP on the majority of people in our community. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is WRONG and UNHEALTHY for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people:

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 2008 initiative, 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 as Proposition One.

Now, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to ONCE AGAIN try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to REDUCE our 9 month grocery tax

exemption to 6 months, thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS! WHY is the borough assembly NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.

Sincerely,
JoAnn McWhorter, Soldotna Ak 99669

Blankenship, Johni

From: C Christie <backwoodsalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 2:28 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Vote NO on Bagley's Grocery Tax!

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the **WRONG** thing to do. This **HIGHLY REGRESSIVE** tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary **HARDSHIP** on the majority of people in our community. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is **WRONG** and **UNHEALTHY** for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people:**

- 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 2008 initiative, 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 as Proposition One.

- **Now**, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to **ONCE AGAIN** try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!** WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.**

Sincerely,
Carol Christie
Homer, Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Francis Mogan <fmogan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 8:44 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

We, the voters have already voted twice to have a grocery tax exemption, borough-wide. Please respect the will of the people.

Vote against this ordinance, we did!

Francis Mogan, Nikiski voter

Blankenship, Johni

From: Holistic Chick <theholisticchick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 7:45 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Blankenship, Johni; contact@endgrocerytax.com; Cooper, Kelly
Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute: Vote NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the **WRONG** thing to do. This **HIGHLY REGRESSIVE** tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary **HARDSHIP on the majority of people in our community**. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is **WRONG and UNHEALTHY** for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people**:

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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 as Proposition One.
- **Now**, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to **ONCE AGAIN** try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!** WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.**

Sincerely,

Ashley Gregoire

Blankenship, Johni

From: Len Kain <len_kain@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 8:01 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now
Subject: NO Grocery Tax!

Dear Assembly Member,

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. His ordinance substitute **would establish 3 MONTHS of WINTER GROCERY TAX**. Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED**.

We want you to know that taking food off of our tables to pay for this is the **WRONG** thing to do. This **HIGHLY REGRESSIVE** tax hurts those the most who can afford it the least. Grocery tax creates an unnecessary **HARDSHIP** on the majority of people in our community. Even harder hit are families and people on low or fixed incomes, including the elderly. And local food pantries have reported that there is an increase in local demand from people who need help with basic food. It is **WRONG** and **UNHEALTHY** for the assembly to increase our grocery taxes.

If this ordinance passes with 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 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people:**

- 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 2008 initiative, 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 as Proposition One.
- **Now**, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to **ONCE**

AGAIN try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!** WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO 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 Substitute.**

Sincerely,
Len Kain,
Anchor Point

Blankenship, Johni

From: Julie Gillett <julianna_robin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 10:31 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Navarre, Mike; Blankenship, Johni; Alaskans For Grocery Tax Relief Now; Angela Gillette
Subject: Vote No Grocery Tax

Dear Assembly Members,

Please vote no on any grocery tax increase. It isn't ethical to increase taxes on food especially during hard times we are suffering now.

Sincerely,

Julianna Carlson
Homer, Alaska

2015-03 SUB

From: Blankenship, Johni
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Havrilla, Brion
Subject: Fwd: KPB Ordinance 2015-03

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: M & M <akmatrix2010@yahoo.com>
Date: April 7, 2015 at 10:02:27 AM AKDT
To: Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, "micheleturner@borough.kenai.ak.us" <micheleturner@borough.kenai.ak.us>
Subject: KPB Ordinance 2015-03
Reply-To: M & M <akmatrix2010@yahoo.com>

Good Morning,

Please enter the following comments into the public record and provide a copy to the mayor and each assembly person prior to the next assembly meeting.

The seasonal sales tax exemption on non-prepared foods originated from a voter approved ordinance. Therefore, it should be repealed by those same voters. If supporters of KPB Ordinance 2015-03 fear a public vote, then it is probably not a good idea to begin with. Let the makers of this ordinance put it to a public vote and then convince taxpayers it is in their best interest to support making this change to the current tax code.

Having reviewed memo's and public comments I find NO justification mentioned other than "funding education to the cap". While this has a "warm and

fuzzy feel" to it, the facts do not support the concept. I'm sure some will be persuaded to spend more public money than necessary in support of this lofty dream. But is this really justified?

Historically the KPBSD comes before the assembly every year promising a better education for our children in exchange for more money. The question that must be asked is, "does this really happen"? A review of the test scores indicates it DOES NOT.

Before changing the current tax structure, I suggest you find out what the public is actually getting in exchange for their hard earned tax dollars as that is the fundamental issue here.

Please vote NO on KPB Ordinance 2015-03 until these questions have been answered to the satisfaction of all involved.

Thank you,

Mike McBride
North Kenai

Subject: Alaskans to end Grocery Tax increase on April 7, 2015

Date: Mon, 6 Apr 2015 14:55:18 -0800

From: Oceanview RV Park <camp4fun@gci.net>

To: contact@endgrocerytax.com

Dear Assembly Members,

I have been a volunteer and a Board member of the Homer Community Food Pantry for over 10 years. I have seen in the past few years an alarming increase in the number of people needing help with food , Electric, housing and clothing or gas vouchers so they can find work. When you tax food etc. you hurt the poorest of the poor and those of us that are scraping out a living in a town with pretty much seasonal business.

Just several weeks ago, Assemblyman Gilman attempted to increase Our grocery tax, Now, Assemblyman Dale Bagley wants to add **THREE MORE MONTHS** on grocery taxation, for a total of SIX MONTHS of tax.

I URGE THE ASSEMBLY TO VOTE NO ON BAGLEY'S GROCERY TAX ORDINANCE.

You, our Assembly members, need to follow the 2008 voter approved winter Grocery Tax Exemption. This was the will of the people.

What I am seeing of Politics has come to mean. you know what is right, but succumb to the seduction of your position.

WE the People are watching you.

Geraldine Barling
Business owner

Subject: Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute

Date: Tue, 7 Apr 2015 00:29:32 -0400

From: aparker60n@aol.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

KPB Assembly Members

Please vote against Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute on Tuesday April 7th. This unfair tax measure hurts those in our community

the least able to afford it. For others, it is just one more reason to shop at Costco or the Base Commissary in Anchorage. Thanks!

Allen D. Parker

Soldotna

Blankenship, Johni

From: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 12:04 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni; Wolf, Kelly; Navarre, Mike; Bagley, Dale; McClure, Sue; Haggerty, Mako; Johnson, Brent; Ogle, Wayne; Welles, Stan; Cooper, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine
Subject: Additional info before 2015-03 SUB vote

Dear Assembly members,

Following is a quote from a school board member on yesterdays KPBSD budget. It does not speak highly of financial prudence by the KPBSD.

Peninsula Clarion, April 7, 2015

KPBSD budget:

“It’s not a financially solid decision, to be honest,” said school board member Sunni Hilts.

No additional comment is necessary.

Again, I encourage you to vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 SUB

Thank you,

Peter Zuyus