

SAMPLE LETTERS – FEEL FREE TO PERSONALIZE

Dear _____ (to Governor, Senator, Assembly Member)

I am the owner of a small business in _____ (name of city). I oppose the proposed new sales tax on automotive repair. It will have a disproportionately greater impact on low-income individuals, whose older cars come in for repair more frequently. High-income individuals, whose cars are newer, more reliable and generally under warranty, will not be subject to this tax increase.

This will also add to the cost of automotive repair by increasing the cost of labor, making automotive repair more expensive. This will hurt small business owners like me, as well as thousands of others, who are already feeling the effects of the economic downturn through fewer customers and sales.

If taxing services and/or labor is an appropriate policy goal, it should be extended to all such services and/or labor and not targeted unfairly to a small set of services.

Respectfully,

Dear _____ (to Governor, Senator, Assembly Member)

As a ____-year owner of a small business I want to register my concern regarding the implementation of a state sales tax specific to auto repair. A tax on this basic service will create many hardships for all of the residents of the state who are dependent on their automobile to move about the state to work, get to school and purchase goods.

This tax will have a disproportionately greater impact on low-income individuals, whose older cars come in for repair more frequently. By adding to the cost of automotive repair you are providing a disincentive to the consumer to have his/her car repaired regularly and properly. This will hurt small business owners who are already feeling the effects of the economic downturn through fewer customers and fewer purchases.

A tax on auto service will also create an economic disincentive for motorists to engage in regular maintenance/repairs at a time when clean air and reduced air contamination is supposedly a top priority for our state. This tax would set back many advances made in the effectiveness of clean air programs such as the Smog Check program.

This tax unfairly targets a small set of services, those who provide important and necessary services to the residents of the state and who are on the frontline of the battle for clean air.

Please consider carefully the true impact of this attempt to balance the state budget. If a tax is going to be put on services, it should be put on ALL services or only on services which are not necessities. This tax would have far-reaching negative effects on auto shop businesses, low income families, the quality of our air and water, and on the general economy.

I request that you not support this method of increasing the state's income from indirect taxes. Requiring businesses to monitor, compute and collect sales tax on goods sold is already a burden that adds to the cost of doing business in this state. This additional tax on selected services only serves to hurt all those involved and hides the true cost to the California consumer. This tax makes it appear that we as a small business are making more money when in fact we are only acting as tax collectors.

Again, I urge you to oppose this tax increase.

Respectfully,

Dear _____ (to Governor, Senator, Assembly Member)

I am the owner of a small family business located in _____, California. We started our business in _____, and have _____ employees, for whom we provide workers' comp, health benefits and retirement (list your benefits). No one is more committed than small business owners in keeping California strong and thriving.

I am very disappointed that you have selected a small group of small businesses to tax labor and not include the very businesses and industries that make so much more money. If you include all businesses across the board and tax labor, you will not penalize a small group of taxpaying Californians. We must all work together to achieve these goals.

Please reconsider, don't tax a handful of hard-working Californians while excluding others who have the means.

Respectfully,