
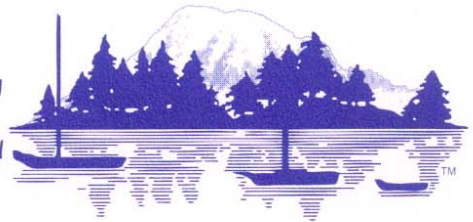


GIG HARBOR  PENINSULA AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



January 27, 2009

Derek Kilmer, Senator
26th Legislative District
226 John A. Cherberg Bldg.
Box 40426
Olympia, WA 98504-0426

Larry Seaquist, Representative
26th Legislative District
317 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Jan Angel, Representative
26th Legislative District
420 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

RE: Business Tax Concerns

We are very concerned about the size of the state government's deficit and how the state will fill the gap.

The business community is struggling in Gig Harbor and across the state. Small businesses, in particular, are under pressure to survive in the worst economic times that most of us can remember.

Business owners cannot afford to pay increased taxes and fees in order to fill the state's budget gap. Any increased burdens on businesses will mean that more jobs are lost, more workers' hours and/or wages will be cut, and more businesses will close.

Please keep this in mind as you work to meet the state's financial needs. Remember that many taxes or fees on businesses are imposed surreptitiously by legislation and agencies when someone decides that certain services should now be taxable, or that a new fee should be required when some form is filed or action takes place.

The bottom line for all of us is a simple one. It is about jobs and keeping our community employed.

Sincerely,

Kathy Endres
President