



Jobs Coalition Kicks Off Signature Drive to Overturn Tax Increase

Jerry Sanders: 'This is a politically expedient jobs tax that will damage our economy and drive businesses and jobs to other cities'

SAN DIEGO (December 27, 2013): The Jobs Coalition's campaign to collect signatures to overturn the City Council's decision to raise taxes on some businesses by approximately 375 to 750 percent officially began Friday at a news conference.

"While we vehemently disagree with the City Council's decision to pass this tax increase, we do agree that subsidized housing is critical," said Jerry Sanders, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. "That is why over the last two years our coalition put forward more than 20 alternative ways to fund subsidized housing and make it more affordable to build. Unfortunately, those ideas were resoundingly rejected in favor of this politically expedient jobs tax, which will damage our economy and drive businesses and jobs to other cities."

Ann Kinner, owner of Seabreeze Books and Charts in Point Loma, and a member of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, said: "Small business owners know we operate on very thin margins, and for someone looking to expand or open up their own storefront a tax increase of 10, 20 or \$30,000 can mean the difference between opening or closing your doors."

Greg Stein, a senior director at Millennium Laboratories, a Rancho Bernardo-based biotech that employs more than 1,300 people, said: "We have more than 200,000 square feet of space in multiple buildings clustered around Rancho Bernardo, including the most recent acquisition of 70,000 square feet that would be subject to this tax.

"The tax increase is expected to cost us as much as \$350,000 in 2014, and we frequently reconfigure our space to meet our needs, so this tax will hit us again and again because it penalizes businesses for changing from warehouse space, for example, to office space."

The campaign has less than a month – until January 23 – to collect 34,000 valid signatures. If it does, the City Council will have to rescind its decision or put the issue before voters, most likely in June 2014.

About The Jobs Coalition: *The Jobs Coalition is a group representing more than 50 San Diego employers, both large and small, that provide thousands of middle class jobs and billions of dollars to the economy, and local business organizations that oppose the Linkage Fee increase. Originally created in 2011 to oppose a similar increase and support robust funding alternatives that would actually provide a stable source of revenue for affordable housing, the Coalition reconvened and announced a signature gathering campaign in December to overturn the City Council's decision to raise the jobs tax by approximately 375 to 750 percent. If allowed to stand, the jobs tax will damage our economy and reduce jobs in San Diego.*

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