



Jan. 15, 2014

Dear Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors;

I am writing you in regards to the proposed per barrel tax on oil in SB county. My understanding is that this would be the first such tax in California. I also understand that all oil and gas in California already pays property tax on every barrel of crude, while still in the ground. When this is added to California's high income, corporate and sales tax rates, the result is that barrels of crude oil or natural gas produced in California are already taxed at pretty much the same rate as all the other major oil producing states.

Higher taxes are not the answer to encourage businesses, create jobs or provide higher tax revenues to government agencies. Allowing our oil industry to grow and create jobs will do much more to grow our economy. Even California Governor Brown this week announced his opposition to increase taxes on oil, on Thursday January 9th, 2014, when he unveiled his proposed 2014-15 budget.

Another issue with this proposed initiative is the cost to put it on the ballot, which could cost the county over \$100,000; money better spent on our deteriorating infrastructure and public safety.

I also understand a poll of the voters have already indicated what they think this is a bad idea. A just released poll by the Santa Barbara Taxpayers Association shows that only 43% of voters support this tax, far short of the 67% of support necessary needed to win.

So I ask that you not support putting this expensive tax proposal on the ballot, where I feel it would surly lose. Let's start looking at ways to grow our economy, especially when the resources are right in front of us.

Thank you for taking time to read my concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Ostini".

Ken Ostini, President/CEO
Lompoc Valley Chamber of
Commerce & Visitor Bureau