

Num Feedback: Barre annual Business Registration Fee

1 I favor this tax; the city needs it.

2 Bad, period.

3 I oppose this tax, it's bad period

I don't think it's right to go **outside** of city limits - i.e., anyone doing business within Barre. What about Avon dealers, Mary Kay representatives, Pampered Chef, Party Lite, etc., etc.? Seems to me if you have a business located within the city limits, then you would be responsible. However, to include everyone that does business within Barre is wrong. What a deterrent to anyone coming to this city to do business - doesn't make sense, but maybe I'm misunderstanding the guidelines? The city of Barre is grasping at everything and anything. What is to stop them from deciding the fee should be higher, in future years, at their discretion? If they could, indeed, get additional state funding of 25% if it were tied to the general property taxes, why should we throw that away? If they're trying to get extra money, it seems like every bit would count.

5 How would they define "doing business in Barre?" With all the internet purchasing, etc., I think that would be impossible and leave the city open to lawsuits over discrimination. Nobody likes taxes, but they are essential. Just make them fair.

6 XXXXXXXX I oppose this tax. It's bad, period.

7 The "I oppose this tax. It's bad, period." sums up my feelings nicely. An additional levy on Barre based businesses is bad period...the present idea is even worse! With this structure three 5th graders selling lemonade in front of their house would be required to register, and, enforcement on out-of-city businesses would be impossible! I'm a Barre City homeowner and as far as I'm concerned we need to spend less, or failing that, put it on the property tax.

8 Sounds like a new bunch of crap vs. the old bunch. What's the definition of a business doing business in barre? If I have an auto repair garage in Chelsea, and order by telephone parts from a Barre auto parts seller, does that mean I pay the tax, oops, fee? I'm doing business in Barre, even though I'm not a Barre business. Put me down as opposed. This is, I fear, going to have a negative impact by directing business and business transactions elsewhere. I'll order from a Montpelier parts house.

9 Who (what business) located outside of Barre (out of state, even) wants to pay a premium to do business here? Who the hell plans to audit that? Has common sense totally left the building?

10 I favor this approach as opposed to a "draconian" tax on hard assets that creat jobs. I am confused what the examples are of Businesses that do business in Barre but are not "in" Barre.

12 x I oppose this tax. It's bad, period.

13 x I oppose this tax. It's bad, period.

14 I have not seen any justification for a business tax and this would encourage us to find another location.

15 We oppose this tax. It's bad, period

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11 I think this business registration is the dumbest thing I ever heard of. I certainly can afford \$150, but with vacant storefronts downtown I can't imagine why this or any other sort of additional business burden is being considered. My property tax was recently, and I believe capriciously, raised. It was called a reappraisal, but in my mind that term implies the citywide building by building visitation process. We are hitting properties selectively when sales of comps go through so as to avoid CLA disparities, but unfortunately this method results in very selective tax prosecution. I can't support this new proposal, nor any other business levy. As an aside, a fair way of reappraising our real estate would be to begin a process of physical inspections on a rolling basis, so that the entire inventory is inspected every ten years, just not at the same time for reasons of the labor involved. I feel better now.

16 I assume this applies to all apartment owners?

17 Farmers' Market participants are going to pay this?

Email as sent to Barre emails 9/25/08

To: Barre Business & Community Leaders

From: Central VT Chamber of Commerce

Re: Barre Business Registration Fee (Tax)

RESPONSE REQUESTED

Barre City Council deserves thanks and credit for withdrawing the proposed Business Personal Property Tax – a confusing, divisive, wasteful exercise in business taxation.

However, it is now pursuing an annual Business Registration Fee for all Barre businesses AND on all businesses doing business IN Barre. First public hearing 8 am Saturday 10/4.

The Chamber opposes this tax as an inefficient replacement for general property taxes. Property taxes would be matched with about 25% state funding. (The Chamber also believes taxing businesses that are not physically located in Barre has disastrous long-range implications.)

However, some have suggested they would find the tax much less objectionable if it were dedicated exclusively for economic development and marketing efforts.

Your input would be greatly appreciated:

___ I oppose this tax. It's bad, period.

___ I favor this tax; the city needs it.

___ I'd support if dedicated to promoting business.

___ OTHER: (please describe or explain)

Your response is appreciated and **will be kept confidential** unless you provide your name and indicate a willingness to have your position shared publicly.

Thank you,
George Malek, Central VT Chamber
Mayor's proposal attached in MS Word