From: frank
To: Senator Billy Beasley; "Representative Warren "
Cc: Chairman Maxwell ; berry3014@centurylink.net
Subject: No new or additional taxes for Macon County residents
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 5:19:39 PM

Representative Warren and Senator Beasley,

The Tuskegee News recently reported the Macon County Commission is asking you to assist them in generating upwards to a $1,000,000/year in more revenue via a new countywide fuel tax, a new countywide rental tax, and county-sweeping occupational tax.

Unless the citizens are able to agree to the additional county revenue via a legislative offered referendum while understanding the benefits and personal sacrifices, this is a bad idea even upon ignoring the fact the governor is on the hunt for more of our dollars.

Considering the financial burden of everyday living in Macon County and knowing 27.3% of Macon county residents in 2009-2013 lived below poverty level, 8.7 points greater than the 18.6% state average, additional taxation will only cause more individuals to become frustrated and less independent. For the same period, Macon County's median household income was $12,500 less than the state average, $43,253. Only three months ago in January, Macon County's long-standing negative county unemployment was 8.2%, nearly two points higher than the state average of 6.3%.

Furthermore, dhr.alabama.gov shows 6,657 Macon County households in January 2015 received public or non-public food assistance valued at $938,335.00, approximately the same values a year earlier, thereby demonstrating economically little has changed the last year in Macon County.

Is the forecast any better? Moreover, the county government is requesting your support and efforts to tax these people further.

Further stressing Macon Countians with the additional cost to drive for groceries and earn a living for their families, the new taxes and expanding the occupational tax countywide will contribute nothing positive to the health and recovery of Macon County's troublesome economy. Nothing positive, but without a doubt, they will negatively affect most Macon County residents and businesses and subsequently the local economy.

Why would a business look at Macon County as a new location knowing their employees will be subject to an occupational tax and to be forced to pay an projected average 43 cents in taxation (federal, state, county, and municipality) per gallon of gasoline to simply come to work?

I respectfully request that the two of you see through this greed using your sound common and economic sense and reject these attempts for the benefit of the entire county by not filing the requested proposed legislation.

Respectfully,

Frank Dillman
www.LetBamaVote.org
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