Measure T

Argument in Favor of (Business License Tax) *(284 words)*

We encourage you to vote yes to increase business license taxes on liquid storage facilities like the tank farm on Tunnel Avenue. This increase helps secure funding for communitywide services that keep Brisbane safe, and preserve our quality of life.

Why we need it? Over the past several years our community has experienced an unparalleled economic downturn. The loss of our biggest revenue producer, VWR, and decrease in property values have demonstrated our vulnerability to the volatility of the economy. We need to diversify our tax base. Approving this measure will increase our tax base and help secure our General Fund, which supports important public services: public safety, emergency response, road repair, parks, recreation, and open space acquisition and management – benefiting the whole Brisbane community.

What is the Fiscal Benefit? If fully phased in, this new revenue source may add approximately $400,000 to our General Fund. This measure provides for a not-to-exceed rate of $115.28 per 1,000 cubic feet of storage, so Council can phase in the tax at its discretion to make the transition reasonable.

Is this tax fair? Our community continues to explore every possibility to ensure our long-term financial future without placing an undue burden on residents or businesses. The City has cut staff, lowered wages, increased taxes on hotels and other large corporations; yet our fiscal future is still uncertain. This measure requires businesses that own large liquid storage facilities to pay their fair share.

Originally the Tank Farm was a relatively bigger source of revenue as it was a sales tax producer. Currently this is not the case and has not been so for the past several decades.

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY'S FISCAL HEALTH. Vote YES on Measure T.

The undersigned author(s) of the primary argument in favor of ballot measure T, a measure regarding Business License Tax, at the General Municipal Election for the City of Brisbane to be held on November 5, 2013 hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Signed: _____ Date: August 12, 2013
Raymond C. Miller, Mayor
City of Brisbane

Signed: _____ Date: August 15, 2013
W. Clarke Conway, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Brisbane

Signed: _____ Date: August 15, 2013
Clifford R. Lentz, Council Member

City of Brisbane

Signed: Terry O'Connell Date: August 12, 2013

Terry O'Connell, Council Member
City of Brisbane