

Hello, House Taxation Members:

I'm writing with concern about SB 248 being discussed **Monday**. The City of Eureka strongly **opposes** this bill and urges you to **vote no**.

SB 248 removes the local sales tax on food, which is costly to all cities - including Eureka streets and highway bond payments on US 54 for the next 20 years. These sales tax initiatives *passed by voters* will be **hundreds of thousands of dollars lost annually**. *Statewide estimates are around \$180 million.*

I also serve on the **hospital** board, where our local rural critical access hospital **will also lose hundreds of thousands of dollars annually**.

I hope you strongly consider the consequences this bill will have to cities across your districts and beyond. **Cutting these funds will ultimately require services to be cut and/or property taxes to be raised** (*in addition, there will most certainly be a ripple effect to low-moderate income earners having rent and other fees increased by property owners*).

We also know there is a new SB 309 drafted by the Senate President to create a new fund that may only last a year or so to help with the gap in loss. Sales Tax is a shared tax from visitors *and* locals, but SB 248 and SB 309 will ultimately put the burden on only local property owners in cities. If you reach out to your constituent cities, I am sure you will hear this concern as well. Please respect Home Rule and the will of the voters regarding local sales tax.

Thank you for your service.

Lucas Jay Herb-Mullin