

RESOLUTION 9 of 2019

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF ALL PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT PERMITS THE LEGISLATURE TO REMOVE THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADMINISTER AND COLLECT LOCAL SALES AND USE TAXES.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana grants local governments the right to levy and collect local sales and use taxes;

WHEREAS, there are legislative efforts introduced in the 2019 Regular Legislative Session that would allow the legislature to transfer collection responsibility of all local sales and use tax levies to state Department of Revenue or some other entity;

WHEREAS, local taxing authorities possess the best knowledge and experience to properly collect their own taxes and have a proven record of proactive advancements in the areas of enforcement, audit coverage, dispute resolution, reporting technology, and successful litigation;

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana's budget issues do not offer prospects for the Department of Revenue to have sufficient resources to provide the necessary taxpayer assistance, enforcement programs, and training of its employees on the specific application of local sales and use tax ordinances without significant cost contributions from local governments, thereby resulting in the direct and indirect loss of local tax receipts;

WHEREAS, many local taxing authorities have issued bond indebtedness guaranteed by the passage of locally adopted sales and use tax levies, the collection of said levies being the direct responsibility of those local governments; and the transfer of that responsibility to a state agency may violate bond covenants, generate legal challenges, and jeopardize future bond issuances; and

WHEREAS, the single local collector in each parish is directly responsible to the local taxing authorities and their elected officials for the performance of local tax administration, whereas the Secretary of the Department of Revenue is an appointee of the Governor, therefore there exists great uncertainty as to who in the Department of Revenue will be accountable to local taxing authorities for the performance of such critical local tax administration, no therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Haughton, as a local taxing authority and governing body, urges each member of the legislative delegation for the Parish of Bossier to vigorously oppose any and all proposed legislation that would transfer the administration and collection of local sales and use taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue or some other central collector, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent forthwith to said legislators so that they will be notified of our position on this matter.

This Resolution being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 1

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this, the 9th day of April, 2019.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing resolution is a true and exact copy adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Haughton, Louisiana legally held on the 9th day of April, 2019 in which a quorum was present.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said Town of Haughton this 9th day of April, 2019.

Heather Feedback, Town Clerk