



Small business owners speak out against jobs tax

'This tax increase will force my family to look to other communities to expand our business'

SAN DIEGO (January 9, 2014) --- A group of San Diego small business owners and local leaders, including Jerry Sanders and Councilman Scott Sherman, gathered today at a news conference to explain why the jobs tax is bad for businesses, the local economy and job growth.

"We purchased this building in 2007 with the specific idea of expansion in this space we are now standing in," said **Mark Olsson owner of [DeepSea Power & Light in Kearny Mesa](#)**. "We have plans to build additional R&D, office, warehouse and manufacturing spaces. We can choose to move forward and expand manufacturing here in San Diego or we can move that expansion elsewhere. The so-called 'linkage fee' will represent about a 5 percent tax on the cost of any new construction. Annual profits in some years can run less than 5 percent."

Stephen Lew, whose family owns Emerald Chinese Seafood Restaurant and Pearl Chinese Cuisine, said: "My family wants to expand our business and create additional restaurants and jobs throughout San Diego. But this tax increase will force my family to look to other communities to expand our business."

Jerry Sanders, President & CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, said: "Hearing from these small business owners, it is very clear that this jobs tax has a very real and a very significant impact on local small businesses. It means the difference between businesses expanding their operations and growing their workforce to having to rethink whether to expand or even if they should move their operations outside of San Diego."

Mark Cafferty, President & CEO of San Diego Regional EDC, said: "As San Diego's economy continues to slowly rebound, this is absolutely the wrong time to put a fee and taxes on business that will slow that growth."

Felipe Monroig, President & CEO of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, said: "The City Council is risking the economic health of San Diego to build 100 more housing units. The City Council should be focused on focused on developing a meaningful, impactful economic strategy that can bring in thousands of good jobs for our community."

San Diego City Councilman Scott Sherman said: "Before running for office I was a small business owner. The concerns we're hearing from people like Mark Olsson and Stephen Lew are real and they should be taken seriously. Make no mistake about it – if this tax increase isn't overturned San Diego jobs will be at risk."

Additional San Diego small business owners who attended today's news conference include Daniel Halecky, Pinnacle Industrial Supply; Kristen Victor, Sustainability Matters; and Ann Kinner,



Seabreeze Books and Charts in Point Loma. Kinner also is a member of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

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About The JOBS Coalition: *The JOBS Coalition is a group representing more than 50 regional organizations and San Diego small businesses that provide thousands of middle class jobs and billions of dollars to the economy, and opposes the Linkage Fee increase. Created in 2011 to oppose a similar increase and support robust funding alternatives that would actually provide a stable source of revenue for affordable housing, the Coalition announced a signature gathering campaign in December to overturn the City Council's decision to raise the jobs tax by approximately 375 to 750 percent. The Coalition has until January 23 to collect 34,000 valid signatures. If it does, the City Council will have to rescind its decision or put the issue before voters, most likely in June 2014.*

Paid for by Stop the Jobs Killing Tax, a Coalition of Jobs Creators, Economic Development, Business and Real Estate Organizations Concerned About the San Diego Economy with Major Funding from NAIOP San Diego Chapter and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. 402 West Broadway, Suite 1000, San Diego, CA 92101