



06/08/2006 13:08

 Urgent Return Receipt

To: <taxreform@fstb.gov.hk>
cc:
Subject:

Dear Sir / Madam

I support the GST, however, I feel very strongly that:

- a) It should be set at no more than 3% so we do not lose our competitiveness to Singapore, as we have already in other aspects such as labour skills and language skills, etc, !!!!
- b) GST should not be levied on basic food (staple foods, meats, fish, rice, seasonings, etc.) and household items (washing / cleaning agents, etc.) so that the middle to low income segments of Hong Kong will not be burdened. As such, for instance, supermarket sales should not be taxed except for such items as alcohol and luxury food items (e.g. dried mushrooms, abalone, etc.)
- c) As HK has always been a food paradise, restaurants / F&B earnings should not be taxed except for alcohol.
- d) A luxury tax should be considered - definitely for sales of alcohol, cars, boats, jewellery, etc.
- e) Tax refunds should be offered to tourists to continue to maintain HK's attraction as a shopping paradise.

That's all I can think of for now. I hope it's helpful.

Sincerely
Barbara Tong