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- Urgent
 Return Receipt

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Subject: Energy tax - no GST

Your consultation document seems more like a propoganda paper. You appear to have your minds made up already as usual regardless of the extent and strength of contrary views. Nevertheless, as a concerned and responsible citizen of Hong Kong, here are my views on the matter:

A GST would affect most those least able to afford it and make the already considerable number of Hong Kong people living below the poverty line even poorer.

The tax would very cumbersome and would require even more non-productive pen-pushing, paper-shuffling civil servants to administer it. It would increase the workload and/or accounting costs of hundreds of thousands of businesses, both large and small.

In your "consultation document" Chapter 2 paragraph 58 you state that -reen-taxes and other specific-purpose taxes have been considered "but many of these options could not significantly broaden the tax base or would add to the cost of doing business in Hong Kong and therefore are unsuitable." You do not explain how GST would not add to the cost of doing business in Hong Kong and is therefore suitable.

Also, you do not explain how a "green" tax could not significantly broaden the tax base. An energy tax on electricity and gas would surely do so. Such a tax would affect both consumers and producers, in direct proportion to their use of energy. It would also raise revenue with minimal administration while helping improve the environment thus demonstrating that the government is seriously walking its "Action Blue Sky" talk.

I hope you will ensure that this so-called consultation is a genuine one even if your consultation document gives every indication otherwise and that you will seriously consider viable alternatives that you seem to have already dismissed in this document.

Hoping for some genuine, honest governance in the future and some real action to help the environment while broadening the tax base.

Jill Taylor