



Small Business Owners Speak Out Against Proposition 24

"We already pay higher taxes here than our competitors pay in other neighboring states... I have been forced to lay people off and cut back staff hours. I've taken myself off the payroll. Prop.24 would prohibit our ability to level out losses. That could be the deathblow for us and a lot of other small businesses."

Rosemary Rodd, President, Leo's Pro Audio, Oakland

"The market is dismal right now... I'm worried that the economic recovery we're counting on will be hampered by the higher taxes the Jobs Tax measure, Proposition 24, would impose."

John Mullin, President, Pacific M Painting, Escondido

"Our business has struggled to stay afloat in these very challenging times... To be able to take at least some of our income losses into account in the good years is enormously important... Proposition 24 would repeal desperately needed tax reforms that help small businesses like mine."

Lark Hilliard, Chief Financial Officer, Hilliard Architects Inc., San Francisco

"Over the last year and a half, we've had to lay off several employees... There are so many burdens on small businesses in California already. The last thing we need is increased taxes as proposed by Prop. 24. If businesses can't create jobs, the economy will continue to decline, and the State budget situation will only worsen."

Darius Baker, Founder and CEO, D & J Kitchens and Baths, Sacramento

"Over the last two years, we've had to lay off 42 employees. Prop. 24 would take away our ability to carry over the huge income losses we've experienced. If the Jobs Tax Initiative passes, it would make it all the more difficult to bring back the good employees we've had to let go."

Terry Klenske, Owner, Dalton Trucking, Fontana

"Thirty long-time furniture companies have gone out of business in southern California in the last five years. The business is moving to states with more favorable tax rates. Aside from China, our biggest competitors are Mississippi and Texas. Proposition 24, the Jobs Tax Initiative, could put an end to furniture manufacturing in California."

Ben Nielsen, President, Cambridge of California, Gardena

"We hope to survive these tough times, but we've had to make some hard sacrifices along the way. We had to lay off 6 employees over the last two years... On top of the challenges of staying open during this recession, the business climate in California is much worse than in other states. We need more jobs to expand the economy – that's the only sure way for California to get out of its budget mess. Prop. 24 would be the enemy of economic expansion."

Terry Maxwell, Owner, T.L. Maxwell's Restaurant, Bakersfield

"The cost of doing business in the State of California is already too high and our industry is already extremely competitive – higher taxes won't be good for anyone. In fact, currently we employ 30 people – 40% fewer than we employed in 2006. ...the ability to level out income losses over time is important to help keep small businesses like mine going. Proposition 24 would do away with that ability and a lot of small businesses would suffer, and even more jobs would be lost."

Mario Grandinetti, Owner, Halls Window Center, Sacramento

"It's hard enough to run a small business during these challenging economic times... Prop. 24, the Jobs Tax measure, is the last thing we need at a time when jobs are scarce and small businesses are doing all they can to hang on to their valued employees and stay viable."

Daniel Duffy, CEO/CIO (Owner), Valley Network Solutions, Fresno

"...most businesses in the residential construction industry have seen their business decline by 70% or more over these last two years. It's the worst it's ever been. Prop. 24 would hurt businesses like mine by repealing tax reforms that were put in place to help keep businesses open and able to maintain jobs."

Tom Calhoun, President, Calhoun Construction, Lincoln

7/19/10