

OPINION

OUR VIEW

Add taxes to agenda

Gov. Mark Dayton should be commended for announcing he's changed his opinion after considering more information. Dayton, and DFL leaders, are proposing a repeal of a tax on business-related repair, which kicked in July 1, be included in a special session scheduled for Sept. 9.

Dayton says he will call for a repeal of a new sales tax on farm equipment repair, reversing his earlier position that the session only be used to address a disaster package. During Farmfest in southern Minnesota, Dayton reportedly called the farm tax the biggest mistake of the legislative session, saying it deserved to be addressed in an emergency session.

The Sept. 9 one-day session was initially called to address providing disaster relief for storm damage caused in June. Now, Dayton said the tax on repairs to tractors and other agricultural equipment expected to raise \$28.6 million over the next two years needs to be reversed.

Some Republicans have said Dayton's reversal on including anything but disaster relief in the special session, as well as reversing a tax he once supported shows he is wishy-washy. In addition, some Republicans have said the tax reversal shows he and DFL leaders tax first and think later. But we believe it takes strength to publicly admit your opinion has changed based on more

information.

Business leaders, including the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, are urging Dayton and legislative leaders to repeal during the special session all three other business-to-business, now refereed to as B2B taxes, enacted earlier this year.

The chamber says the sales tax on repairs, besides hitting the farm community hard, negatively impacts many important industries around the state that have large repair costs and slim margins such as manufacturers, printers and mining.

It says a telecommunications equipment tax will make it harder and more expensive for companies to invest in Minnesota's telecommunications infrastructure — something the chamber and many others say is crucial for future economic success in the state.

The chamber notes Dayton says he will call for a repeal of the warehouse and storage tax when the Legislature convenes in February 2014. The chamber says why wait? Companies are making next year's business plans now and cannot make decisions based on a promise to push for a repeal of this tax.

We think opponents make a good argument for consideration of all three new taxes during the special session, and we urge Dayton and DFL leaders to add these to the agenda.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

City should use local resources for search

To the editor,

This letter is regarding the city's efforts to hire the new city administrator. My name is Jay Parmeter, I graduated from Falls High in the class of '75. I am and have been an executive recruiter for the past thirty one years. I handle very complicated employee searches for clients world wide. My work is primarily in the recruitment of executive management and technical candidates, but I do have personal and professional experience working with municipalities as well.

In addition to myself, there are two other highly capable people in our community who, like myself, would be valuable assets for the job of helping the city with this task. Some months ago I talked with mayor

Bob Anderson and offered my help in filling the vacancy. Bob was appreciative and we have kept a dialog going since then. In the recruiting world the fee for this service would be between \$15,000 and \$24,000 depending on a number of typical things involved, travel, additional resources brought in to help, etc. I offered to do this for free to help the community.

Per Wednesday's paper the city has or is about to hire a firm in the (Twin) cities to take care of the assignment. They knew I was here and they knew of the other two people I mentioned. I was not consulted, nor were the others to my knowledge. From a process standpoint the city just signed up for a very expensive and difficult project and they have

minimal knowledge of what to expect or how to monitor the process.

One of the most important things about a search is true knowledge of the area where the person is going to relocate to, IE weather, demographics, recreation opportunities and the list goes on. Getting someone to move here is one thing, hiring/qualifying someone who will stay long term is quite another. I wish everyone the best on this, but I hope in the future the city will utilize local resources as everyone preaches, particularly when the source has a high level of experience and offers it at zero cost.

Jay Parmeter
International Falls, MN

How to contact your lawmakers

FEDERAL OFFICES

President Barack Obama
Democrat
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20500
202-456-1111
Website:
www.whitehouse.gov
E-mail:
president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
202-225-6211
Website: www.nolan.house.gov
Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

Duluth Office of Congressman Rick Nolan (TEMPORARY)
Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse
515 West First Street, Room 235
Duluth, MN 55802
218-464-5095, 5096, 5097 and 5098

Brainerd Office of Congressman Rick Nolan
Brainerd City Hall
501 Laurel Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-454-4078

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Democrat
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3244

Minnesota Office:

1200 Washington Avenue South, Suite 250
Minneapolis, MN 55415
612-727-5220
Website:
www.klobuchar.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Al Franken
Democrat
Senate Hart Building 320
Washington DC 20510
202-224-5641
Website:
www.alfranken.com
E-Mail:
info@franken.senate.gov

STATE OFFICES

Gov. Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN, 55155
800-657-3717
E-mail:
Mark.Dayton@state.mn.us

Rep. David Dill
571 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190
800-339-0466
rep.david.dill@house.mn
Assistant: Joan Harrison

Sen. Tom Bakk
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol, Room 226
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
Capitol Office phone:
(651) 296-8881
Email:
www.senate.mn/
senatorbakkemail

Consultant is too costly

To the editor,

After reading in The Journal that the International Falls City Council has agreed to pay a consultant up to \$14,000 to find

a new city administrator, I have come to the conclusion that International Falls will soon be known as the Little Detroit.

The solution to the problem is

real simple: Throw the rascals out.

Roy T. Langlois
Littlefork, MN

GUEST COLUMN

The story of little red hen

Once upon a time, there was a little red hen who lived on a farm past the woods. She was friends with a bossy but politically connected pig, a groveling sheep who worked as a flunky for the village and a scared little mouse who specialized in running away and hiding. Hey. Sometimes your friends are whoever lives on the farm next to you.

One day the little red hen found some seeds. Since everyone was busy, she planted them and, lo and behold, not long after, a large field of wheat lay right behind the back porch. A funny thought came into her head that she could use the wheat to bake some bread. Lots of bread. Enough bread that she and her buddies could retire comfortably by selling it to animals on the other farms in her village.

So she formed an LLC with her friends. After all the papers were signed, and paws and wings and hooves were shook, a party was held and all the animals on the farm attended. The dog got drunk. Finally, it was time to gather the wheat and the little red hen went around to each of her friends to see who would help.

Citing confusion over stalled congressional action on the agricultural bill, the pig demurred, maintaining this was not a good time. It was a big



Will DURST
RAGING MODERATE

farm. The sheep's lawyer, the duck, urged caution, not wanting to offend their good friend, the pig. The mouse was unavailable for comment but the hen heard toenails on the floor of his hole like someone was scurrying away from grave danger. So the hen gathered the wheat by herself.

Needing help to grind the wheat, the little red hen once again approached the pig, who declined, not wishing to exacerbate the generally explosive union situation. The sheep couldn't possibly commit without first consulting his foreman, the horse, who was vacationing in Aruba. According to an informed source, the mouse was in conference with the duck and not to be disturbed. So, the hen ground the wheat.

Sadly, the grinding took so long the hen lost the option

on an industrial oven she had lined up in the valley. Warily, she went to the pig, but he had already leased his oven space to a Chinese bakery concern. The sheep was waiting for a similar yet intrinsically different offer and didn't dare tie himself up. An unnamed staff member intimidated the mouse was compiling evidence to support a harassment charge against the cat. The hen eventually got a grant from the feds for an alternative production plant and baked many loaves of bread keeping all the profits for herself.

The pig and the sheep sued for breach of promise, winning the entire baking operation as a settlement. The mouse never knew what was going on. The hen got revenge of sorts when the pig, who had sheared the sheep in a hostile takeover, was jailed by the mule who found moose pellets in the crust of the sourdough.

The dog scored big by selling a fictionalized script of the whole affair to Netflix as a 12-part miniseries in which the hen appeared in a cameo as a sexy yet conflicted FDA inspector possibly suffering from Asperger's Syndrome. The end.

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