

SAVE OUR JOBS

STOP the OIL TAX

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THE DIRTY LITTLE SECRET ABOUT TORRICO'S AB 656

SACRAMENTO – A swarm of college students have been urged to descend on the State Capitol today calling for action on AB 656, Assemblyman Alberto Torrico's bill pertaining to a new severance tax on oil production.

Much of the pre-rally information has touted AB 656's dedicated funds for higher education, presumably to exploit student's concerns about budget cuts and rising tuition.

But, a statewide coalition says students and others who think AB 656 is the correct answer could get a failing grade.

The Save Our Jobs Coalition says that's because AB 656 wouldn't solve the enormous problems underlying the state's budget crisis, which is at the root of woes plaguing both higher education and essential services statewide. And while it wouldn't solve higher education's money problems, AB 656 would cause some real damage in terms of jobs, gas prices and our state's dependence on imported oil.

Joe Armendariz is executive director of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association, which is a member of the statewide coalition which represents workers and communities whose livelihoods are threatened if a severance tax is imposed.

"Promoters of AB 656 have gone out of their way to conceal the full extent of how much pain the tax would cause," said Armendariz. "Along with thousands of lost jobs in the middle of the Great Recession, a severance tax would decrease the value of property with oil, meaning property tax revenues would drop by millions of dollars.

(more ... quote open)

“Because Santa Barbara County produces a significant amount of oil, it would be among the most heavily and adversely impacted. But there will be consequences statewide, including increased dependence on imported oil and higher gasoline and diesel prices at the pump as a result.

“Students and others should also know they are being misled in other ways. AB 656 supporters enthusiastically promote the notion that California is the only major oil-producing state without a severance tax. They don’t say that we tax oil producers here in ways other states don’t, including our highest-in-the-nation corporate income tax,” Armendariz said.

“AB 656 is not what many students apparently are being told it is. We urge them to go to school on the bill and the impacts of an oil severance tax.”

The Save Our Jobs coalition believes that rather than pursue job-killing legislation that will only prolong our state’s financial troubles and exacerbate its record-high unemployment rate, lawmakers should focus on job creation that will encourage the stable, prosperity-based recovery California so desperately needs.

More information is available at www.SaveOurJobs.org.

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