

Testimony for the June 23, 2017 Beverage Tax Hearing,

From Jennifer Cianfarini, Philadelphia, pa 19116

I am writing to express my opinion on the soda tax imposed upon the citizens of Philadelphia. First of all, it is not exclusively a SODA tax. It taxes many other beverages that were not included in the original statement from the mayor. The tax is also much too high. It puts undue stress on a city that is already struggling. People are driving out of the city just to purchase their beverages. If they cannot do so they are just not buying them. Businesses are suffering because people can't afford the tax. There are currently many reasons why people, if they can, are choosing to move out of the city. Our taxes, excluding the soda tax, are far too high, insurance is too expensive and the quality of life for the money we spend to live here, is marginal. I also feel that the chance for graft from city officials is very high due to the enormous amount of money generated from this tax. Either lower the tax substantially or just cancel it.