

October 17 2006

The Honourable Carole Taylor  
Minister of Finance  
Province of British Columbia  
Box 9048  
Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria  
British Columbia  
V8W 9E2

Dear Carole Taylor

My name is Wally Martin and together with my wife Sharon, we are the proprietors of the Traveller's Hotel at 21628 48 Ave. in the Township of Langley.

Recently, the Township Council pursued an initiative to implement a 2% hotel room tax pursuant to section 43 of the Hotel Room Tax Act. My understanding is that, in order to implement the tax, the Township requires a regulation to be passed under the Hotel Room Tax Act. The prerequisites for such a regulation require the Township Council to pass a bylaw requesting the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make the regulation and to demonstrate to your Ministry that they have the support of 50% of the hotels in the Township representing 50% of the rooms.

The Township of Langley has proceeded to third reading of its bylaw purporting to have secured the support of 50% of the hotels in the Township of Langley representing 50% of the rooms. I attended the first readings of the bylaw and I made a presentation objecting to the bylaw proceeding as my hotel had been excluded from the voting process. I also expressed reservations to counsel regarding the propriety of the voting process. I was not allowed to finish my presentation and the bylaw proceeded to third reading.

On my own initiative, I visited the hotels in Langley on October 17, 2006 and obtained ballots. The ballots that I obtained clearly demonstrate that the Township of Langley does not have the support of 50% of the hotels in Langley representing 50% of the rooms. There are nine hotels in the Township of Langley and I have ballots from five of those hotels opposing the implementation of the tax. I enclose those original ballots for your records. Most notably, the ballot from the Travelodge in Langley indicates that the owner of the hotel does not support the tax. That ballot is endorsed with the comment: "please disregard earlier answer "yes", answered by manager not owner". The owner of the Travelodge indicated that the manager of the hotel had no authority to support the implementation of the tax on behalf of the hotel.

By copy of this letter, I am advising the Township council of the results of the ballots that I obtained. If the Township of Langley decides to proceed with its request to the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make a regulation under section 43 of the Hotel Room Tax Act, in my respectful submission, such a request should be denied as the Township does not have the requisite support of 50% of the hotels representing 50% of the rooms in Langley Township.

Thank you for your anticipated attention to this matter.

Wally Martin  
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British Columbia  
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