



October 7, 2024

Honorable Julie Moore Wolfe, Mayor- Decatur, IL  
Members of the City Council, City of Decatur  
1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza  
Decatur, IL 62523

Dear Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe, and Members of the City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the over 3,000 members of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, specifically the members in Decatur, Illinois, to formally express our objection to the proposed *Ordinance Creating City Code- Chapter 51.6- Municipal Gas Tax Use* that your governing body will be voting on today.

While we understand the city's need to generate revenue for essential services and infrastructure, we believe that implementing a new municipal gas tax will have detrimental effects on local businesses and consequently the local community. Specifically, this tax may lead to increased operational costs for an estimated 200-300 businesses and could be passed down to consumers, exacerbating the financial strain on households already facing economic challenges.

Moreover, we are concerned about the lack of clarity surrounding the allocation and use of the funds generated by this tax. Without a transparent framework, there is a perception that these funds may not be directed toward priorities that do not directly benefit the business community, diminishing public trust and accountability. Also, the timing of communication and opportunity for local businesses to comment and respond provided little partnership with the business community you seek to impose the tax on.

We urge the City Council to consider the broader implications of this ordinance on the local economy, the ability to grow and retain existing and future businesses, and to explore alternative revenue-generating options that do not impose additional burdens on businesses and residents.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and hope you will reconsider the impact of the proposed tax on the Decatur business community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lou Sandoval". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lou Sandoval  
President and CEO  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

