

State's Business Entity Tax is a nuisance tax

There continues to be a pebble in every business person's shoe. It is called a "Business Entity tax" and demands a \$250 fee to the State's Revenue Services Department from each and every business owner. Campaigning politicians always profess their opposition to the tax, insisting they want it repealed.

It's still on the books.

Okay, you're probably saying to yourself that \$250 isn't a big deal, about \$5 a week. Yet, it is a fact that more and more businesses, small and moderate sized, are feeling a tremendous economic pinch and this tax has no purpose other than contribute to the state's "black hole" of spending.

This tax should be repealed when the General Assembly reconvenes. At the very least, the new session should acknowledge the business community's struggles and



Art Secondo Second Look

repeal a nuisance tax that basically is an insult.

Persons who have never been in business, owned or started a business, may find it hard to believe that business owners play an integral part of Connecticut's stability. Not only do business owners contribute to their respective local taxes, they spend thousands on employment taxes, health care and physical improvements to their property. They own cars and trucks buy gasoline and pay utility fees and

high insurance premiums.

And, it doesn't end there. Business owners face stiff competition from others who challenge their product, challenge their prices and often entice employees to jump ship. Owning and operating a business, whether it is a small flower shop, ice cream shop or small manufacturing firm, is a daily uphill battle for many in today's economic climate.

The state would be better off giving valid reason for the Business Entity Tax. Perhaps a series of informative business planning seminars held in various sections of the state and hosted by the state's Economic Development office. These seminars could focus on business financing, marketing and structure. Seminars could also include details about employment matters, health insurance and more. These seminars

could then be justified with this Business Entity Tax, noting that the pool of businesses is contributing to everyone's benefit.

The tax is such an enigma that it is an easy target for candidates for governor. These folks campaign on the promise of improving the business climate. What does that mean?

The business climate improves when towns and cities reduce or maintain their taxes which are dependent on the state appropriating more to each community. Only then can towns like Southington do more for businesses other than cut a red ribbon.

The State of Connecticut needs an ombudsman to be on call throughout the year and be ready to fulfill an obligation that government makes to each and every citizen — a fair taxation

on services provided but with a strong emphasis on honesty and integrity that the State expects from businesses who survive on the public's trust and obviously, their money.

We must admit that legislators are quick to ignore the fact that they enacted this tax to raise more revenue but have no idea how to replenish the money if they repeal it.

The Business Entity Tax is a bad idea but a trade-off could mean another tax somewhere. That's the irony of taxes. The money has to come from somewhere.

During the current campaign for Governor and House seats, there is little conversation about toll booths. The discus-

sion ended before the primaries when candidates were timid about suggesting that toll booths, or one toll booth on I-95, could generate about \$400 million annually.

The opposition comes from the "Gold Coast" in Fairfield, Greenwich and Stamford. Where are the most powerful, visible candidates from? Fairfield, Greenwich, Stamford.

In the meantime, the infamous "Business Entity Tax" should be removed as the first order of business by the next Governor.

Then we can shake our shoes and remove that annoying pebble!

Art Secondo is president of the Southington Chamber of Commerce.

Icon: winner looking for recording contract

From page 1

Gootkin said he had found a candidate.

"We were blown away by her voice," Von Gootkin said. "Not only is it powerful, she has a unique sound. She was right at home in the studio."

Since then, the studio has been working with Jillian to write mainstream pop songs and try to produce enough to fill a CD. Instrumentation has been

added to accompany her voice. Once they have enough material, Von Gootkin said they would begin talking to music labels and trying to get a record deal.

Meanwhile, Jillian has showed off her vocals in many venues in the area, including performances at Machiavelli's and Smokin' With Chris. She also performed the national anthem at a New Britain Rock Cats game and plans

to entertain the crowd at a charity event at Zandri's in Wallingford.

In her "normal life," she has just started her freshman year at St. Paul's High School in Bristol.

Jillian said she was hugely grateful for the chance to participate in

the first Southington Icon competition, where it all began.

"I've been feeling great," she said. "The Southington Icon helped me go out and sing more, and it also inspired me to write my own songs. It's become my new passion."

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Joins the Medical Staff AT BRISTOL HOSPITAL



Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Candice E. Shea, MD, has joined the medical staff at Bristol Hospital and has established her practice with CCOG Women's Health Group at 1131 West Street, Building 2, Southington and 25 Newell Road, Suite E-35, Bristol.

After receiving her undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Massachusetts, Dr. Shea received her medical degree from Saba University School of Medicine, Saba, Netherlands Antilles. She completed her residency at The Medical Center of Central Georgia, Macon, Georgia. Dr. Shea is board eligible in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Shea is dedicated to her work, and looks forward to starting her own family in the Bristol community.

Dr. Shea, who is semi-fluent in Spanish, is accepting new patients and can be reached at 860-276-6800.



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