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February 20, 2018

Mayor Steve Chirico and City Council
City of Naperville
400 S Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60540

Dear Mayor Chirico and City Council Members,

The Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to continue opposition to the Home Rule Sales Tax this morning. We recognize that there are significant budgetary pressures on home town residents, local businesses, as well as public officials. However, we are concerned that the slow creep of state and local taxes will ultimately hurt our ability to grow a robust economy.

Local retailers are at a significant disadvantage versus online sellers and continued increases at the local level exacerbate that difference. In addition, as we erode our competitive advantage versus local communities we know that we will attract less consumers into our town to take advantage of the border tax effect.

We also recognize that Naperville passed budget principles that aim to strategically increase the cash reserves to 25% and pay down the debt by 25% within an eight year timeframe. These are laudable aims and we are thankful that we have leaders that are reaching for aggressive goals. However, we ask is it time to review? Is there value in extending the horizon, in accomplishing the same goals over a slightly longer period while working on further cost reductions in the meantime?

We have heard from our Members and they do not feel that they can absorb another tax increase, regardless of the source. Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Naperville City Council not increase the Home Rule Sales Tax.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicki Anderson".

Nicki Anderson
President & CEO
NACC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Dalough".

Colin Dalough
Director of Government Affairs
NACC