

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this morning. Special thanks goes to Senator Fasno for arranging for our voices to be heard. As a business owner, tax payer and proud American Citizen I find disturbing and unsettling that these massive tax hikes were not discussed or presented at Public Hearings.

While I have issues with many of the tax increases, today I ask you to hear to the voice of a designer of Fine Interiors. The new tax increases hit the interior design professionals hard, not only with taxes on our services but also professionals we align ourselves with everyday, architects, engineers, drafting professionals, building inspectors, surveying and marketing services.

Specifically in Residential Interior Design, my own specialty, my firm and team supply a unique service, guiding clients through the delicate dance of budgeting and their dreams. Honestly adding sales tax to my services, and the additional services listed above will certainly cause clientele to hesitate in retaining our expertise, which in turn will result in costly mistakes and less tax revenue .

My clients over the years have found great value in working with a designer to help them navigate the sometime treacherous waters of home design. They will tell you with this guidance they have hired reputable contractors, unsurpassed workmanship and purchased good quality, lasting products. These products, by the way come with our already hefty state sales tax. Without my guidance they could be purchasing out of state or on-line, losing the sales tax here.

I urge you to consider the impact of all the proposed tax increases. Consider how we keep our economy growing, businesses vital and excited about doing business in Connecticut. Right now with these proposed taxes on so many services, Connecticut does not appear to be open for business.