

## Frilling, Tara

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**From:** John R. Schroeder <jrschroeder@jrsaia.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 07, 2015 2:12 PM  
**To:** Sen. Fasano, Len  
**Cc:** Frilling, Tara; Krautler Patricia; jagargiulo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Tax Hike - Public Hearing Testimony

Dear Senator Fasano and Representative Klarides:

May 7, 2015

RE: Proposed Sales Tax on Architectural Services

Dear Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is John Schroeder. Thank you for your service to our State. As an architect and owner of a small firm, I am writing to you regarding a recent proposal by the General Assembly Finance Committee to impose a sales tax on architectural services.

Architects work tirelessly for the common good in many different capacities, helping families, businesses, and institutions plan and build for their futures. Architects serve on a multitude of municipal and corporate boards, commissions, and committees. They volunteer their time and expertise for a whole host of organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. Architects have a passion for helping people and communities be the best they can be.

Considering the focus and energy Architects give to making our communities safer, more functional, and more beautiful, I believe it is no exaggeration to say how devastating this proposed tax would be to our livelihoods and thus to all the good work we do.

I, like most Architects, are the epitome of small business – either sole proprietors or employing less than a dozen people. Unfortunately, our lackluster state economy has not been favorable to the design community or to the building trades. I listen to fellow architects and building contractors complain every week about the difficulty in finding and maintaining work. I listen to my clients complain how incredibly expensive it is to design and build in Connecticut. When they hear what their friends and family are able to design and build in other states, they are rightly frustrated and angry. We Architects share these feelings.

I respectfully ask you to oppose this tax proposal, and on the contrary, work to reduce debilitating taxes, overzealous regulations, complicated legal structures, and wasteful spending.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

John R. Schroeder, AIA

John R. Schroeder <jrschroeder@jrsaia.com>  
9 Johnson Road  
Chester