

COMMON GROUND

2000 Century Plaza (238)
Columbia, MD 21044
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June 28, 1988

Mary Davis
1051 Mason Wpods Drive
Atlanta GA 30329

Dear Mary:

In answer to your most recent communication:

Enclosed is my resume.

The title of my speech at the Conference: "How It's Done in Pa., and How You Can Do It."

Councilman Scott Smith: Pennsylvania's youngest city councilman, just recently graduated from Lock Haven University of Pa., Lock Haven, Pa. He balked at using taxpayer funds to build a big flood control project in his town which would enrich the affected landowners, so he introduced a land value tax (actually a two-rate tax) into council in his town (Lock Haven) which nearly passed and he'll try again in 1988 for 1989. The title of his speech: "An Insider's View of LVT." He will explain what goes on in council when LVT is up for consideration.

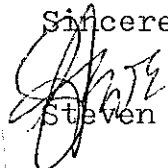
Councilman James Tayoun: long-time councilman in Philadelphia, and our chief supporter on council.

Finance Director Betsy Reveal: she got the mayor to introduce a two-rate property tax in Philadelphia, and she'll tell us what happened then. She'll be introducing two-rate next year.

The last three will tell us what goes on in council when LVT is up for discussion. We'll get the "inside-out" view. Scott Smith said he'll be there, but I have only heard the other two will come; speak to Ed Dodson, Jack Himmelstein or George Collins to make sure.

Enclosed: our organization's activities, Jan.-May only. We have not been sleeping. Without us, much less would have been done.

Sincerely,


Steven Cord

JANUARY - MAY 1988 LIST OF ACTIVITIES

- o Aliquippa, Pa. - did study and testified before Council (1/12/88). This was also done in other cities. Aliquippa soon afterward became the 8th city in Pa. to adopt two-rate - 81 mills land 5-~~4~~only on buildings. This is a big shift. We are now engaged in a legal defense of the two-rate shift.
- o Four cities expanded their two-rate property tax, shifting more of their property taxes off buildings onto land. These cities are Harrisburg, Washington, Duquesne and New Castle (1/88).
- o Harrisburg - citizens' protest erupted after a 68% tax increase was announced - I testified at public hearing, prevented LVT rollback (1/87). More recently, I have been appointed by City Council to a Tax Study Commission and hope to see to it that the Commission supports two-rate in its report (the 1982 Commission did not, and that held us back considerably in Harrisburg).
- o Radio Talk-Show Interviews by telephone, 4-5, across the country (from Bdcst. Interv. Svce.)
- o Green Revolution - reprinted IT article (Winter 1987)
- o Public Finance Resource Sourcebook (Tax Foundation) - Incentive Taxation mentioned here; we have gotten 2 referrals.
- o Government Finance Review - May 23, 1988 issue - article.
- o National League of Cities - many contacts made - soon will blossom.
- o Letters-to-the-editor - many published.
- o Bluebird Letter (Elmer Greenlee) - reprinted IT article.
- o Booklet "Four Pathways to LVT" describes the technical details for transmitting a land-and-building property tax into a two-rate and eventually a land-only tax.
- o Booklet "How to Form a Common Ground Membership Chapter"
- o Washington DC Study - presented findings on what LVT rates would be most acceptable, at LULC/Wash. DC meeting (11/12/87).
- o Ontario study by Mal McCarthy - provided data (also to other Georgists similarly engaged)
- o Australian Research - arranged Lincoln Institute financing for a prestigious Penn State U. professor to do research on Australian LVT.
- o Howard County (MD) Council - testified 4/27/88.

- Voorhees College Essay Contest - Harold Voorhees has funded an essay contest with \$2,500 a year. Results so far only fair, but promising. HGFA pres. and v.p. are the judges.

- Exhibit at two neighborhood fairs - ok, but not worth repeating.

- Correspondence - dozens of letters a week to inquirers and Georgists.