

3 October 2005

Hon. Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation  
Room 306  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Falcon

Re: Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Amendment Act (Bill 9)

I am writing today to request that your Ministry stop the parking tax legislation until meaningful dialogue has occurred with commercial property owners.

The Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia is a not for profit organization which represents over 400 corporate members that own or manage in excess of \$ 7 billion of commercial real estate, the majority of which is located within Greater Vancouver.

BOMA has on many occasions publicly opposed any form of parking taxes to fund the TransLink Three Year Financial and Ten Year Outlook Plan. While we fully recognize and support the need for transportation infrastructure in the Vancouver region, the parking tax solution to funding is both unfair and inequitably. A responsibly financed system must not single out certain business owners who happen to provide parking facilities for public use. Most commercial property owners, especially in Vancouver, are already coping with an unfair share of the property tax burden.

BOMA believes the most equitable system for funding is through a one-cent per litre gas tax (either new or from the existing collected). We believe that this option is not only the most equitable solution but, according to TransLink studies, offers the most Traffic Demand Management benefits.

It's not too late to hold off on this new form of regional taxation that has neither a limiting mechanism nor accountability to the public who, in the end, will pay this hidden tax.

We ask that the parking tax enabling legislation be stopped, and further, that Translink and the GVRD be required to deliver a comprehensive financing plan for their ten-year initiative. The provincial government should then complete a consultation process with the commercial real estate industry and other stakeholders to arrive at an equitable solution relating to sector sharing.



Jon Wellman  
President, BOMA BC

CC Premier Gordon Campbell  
Hon Rick Thorpe, Minister of Small Business and Revenue