



Rochester, New York Two-Tier Tax Forum Held

by Marvin Morris, Rochester, NY

On September 10, the Rochester chapter of Common Ground USA held a forum at the Brighton Town Hall.

Speakers included Alanna Hartzok, Richard Rybeck, Marvin Morris, Ted Gwartney, Senator Richard Dollinger, and Joshua Vincent.

At the conclusion of Rick Rybeck's excellent talk on sprawl, Senator Dollinger told Rybeck he would like to use his overhead on sprawl in his own talk — which he did. By so doing, it appeared to be an endorsement of this aspect of two-tier taxation.

All attendees were personally invited by Marvin Morris who initiated, coordinated and moderated the program. Guests included town councilmen, county legislators, state legislators, various assessors, an assistant to the mayor, a town financial director, a town attorney who advises a county legislator, and various lay people. Talks were given on impact on agriculture and environment, basic causes of sprawl, concepts of two-tier tax planning, along with endorsements quotes of national organizations, an assessor's practical insights on two tier tax planning, and the availability of pro-bono services to provide a study of impact of the two-tier tax on towns, cities and counties.

A survey form was distributed for feedback with some indicating an interest in joining a panel on "seeking consensus for reducing the taxes on

buildings and upping the taxes on land" (a plan successfully accomplished by Perry Prentice, former vice-president of TIME who in the late 1960s had in attendance key persons of approximately 30 national organizations.

Some of the follow-up currently underway includes efforts to:

- * visit with the legislative assistants of Senator Anthony Nanula (D-Niagara Falls-Buffalo), Senator Richard Dollinger, (D-Rochester), and Senator Owen Johnson, (R-Long Island) — all of whom have expressed a deep interest in two tier taxation and two of whom openly endorse it.

- * place an announcement just outside the Monroe County Legislature

caucusing area indicating the availability and use of the edited version of our videotapes in the nearby TV room — as offered by Kevin Murray, Minority Leader of the Monroe County Legislature in conversation with Morris. A prepared packet was provided to each attendee which included an agenda and list of speakers and topics: Alanna Hartzok is the coordinator, Pennsylvania Fair Tax Coalition, Scotland, PA. She discussed the impact on agriculture and the environment.

Richard Rybeck is the Deputy Administrator, Office of Policy and Planning, Dept. of Public Works, Washington, DC. His presentation clarified the

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Katzenberger staffed booth at NCSL in Las Vegas

For the third consecutive year, Al Katzenberger of St. Louis staffed a Georgist booth at the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures. This year's meeting was held July 20-24 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Three organizations, in all of which Katzenberger is an officer, assisted financially in the effort.

Public Revenue Education Council, St. Louis, of which Katzenberger is president, reserved and paid for the NCSL booth and also paid for hotel lodging as well as for literature. Common Ground-USA, of which Katzenberger is vice-presi-

dent, provided 1000 copies for distribution of CGUSA's legislative outreach brochure, "The Revenue Source Is Under Our Feet," as well as CGUSA's membership brochure. St. Louis Teachers Union AFT-CIO Local 420, of which Katzenberger is treasurer, paid the air fare for Al Katzenberger and his wife, Sandra Cothran, who also helped with unloading the eight boxes for setting up the booth. Boxes of literature were mailed in advance to Cothran's cousin, Karen Godbolt, in Las Vegas, where Katzenberger and Cothran

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