



Stop Taxing Food

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What's going on?

The current budget shortfall in the funds needed to operate Lucas Oil Stadium and Conseco Fieldhouse has once again placed the hospitality industry at the center of a debate that could result in an increase in restaurant and hotel taxes. A 1% increase in either would give Central Indiana the highest combined hospitality tax rate in the country. We currently account for \$82 million per year of the CIB budget (75%). The average restaurant in Central Indiana currently pays \$10,000 to \$20,000 in hospitality taxes.

The Capital Improvement Board operates these facilities and they have instituted budget cuts in an attempt to address the shortfall but that only trims their projected operating deficit from \$43 million to \$35.6 million.

So what's the big deal?

1. **You pay more!** It's simple. An added tax will increase your restaurant bill.
2. **The economy suffers!** Family Meals Taxes single out the restaurant, hospitality and tourism industries. **These industries are vital to Indiana's economy as they bring in over \$500 million in tax revenue to the state.** Hospitality Taxes increase overhead expenses for businesses and decrease the demand for dining out, hotel stays, and leisure and business travel. Any increase in a food & beverage tax or an innkeepers tax will make central Indiana have the highest tax in the country. Taxes put Indiana's hospitality and tourism industry at a great disadvantage.

The Bottom Line?

Family Meals Taxes are a tax on food. When the sales tax was passed it was decided that necessities such as food, shelter, and medicine should be exempt. **Family Meals Taxes are unfair to you. Why should restaurant customers be singled out for a tax not paid by customers of other businesses?**

What can you do?

1. **Learn about the issue** - visit www.stoptaxingfood.org.
2. **Get involved.** Contact your legislators and let them know how you feel about Family Meals Taxes. Ask them to vote NO on any current Family Meals Tax legislation. You can reach your State Representative at 800-382-9841 or 9842 or 317-232-9600. You can reach your State Senator at 800-382-9467 or 317-232-9400.
3. **Get others involved.** Let your friends, family, co-workers, etc. know about this unfair tax increase. **Don't be afraid to tell others about www.stoptaxingfood.org. Do it today!**