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MEASURE O’S 500% TAX INCREASE WOULD SLAM BEVERLY HILLS RESIDENTS

BEVERLY HILLS – Measure O’s massive tax increase would hit Beverly Hills residents, churches and schools and reduce property values, said representatives of the campaign against the measure as they urged citizens to reject it.

Awaiting voters on the March 8 ballot, Measure O would place a new tax on natural gas and increase the city’s existing energy tax by nearly 500%.

Stop Higher Energy Taxes, Vote No on Measure O launched a campaign today to make Beverly Hills voters aware of the measure’s potential impacts.

“Measure O would NOT tax ‘Big Oil Companies,’ because none of them operate in Beverly Hills,” said Greg Brown, executive vice president of BreitBurn Energy Partners, L.P. “Measure O would instead hit small and moderate-sized local companies like ours that produce natural gas and oil for domestic use. The tax would fall hardest on smaller vendors and contractors who carry out the production work.”

(more)
Opponents said the city should reign in spending before asking for such a drastic tax hike and the city should admit Measure O will hit city residents where it hurts.

“These taxes will be passed onto thousands of Beverly Hills residents, churches and schools whose property is above local mineral reserves and who depend on payments from local energy producers,” said Scott Macdonald, communications director for the Stop Higher Energy Taxes, No on Measure O campaign. “Measure O would reduce those payments and further reduce property values in Beverly Hills.”

With Los Angeles County unemployment at a staggering 12.4%, opponents said this is the worst time to hit struggling local businesses with higher taxes.

Despite the measure’s misleading language, opponents said there are no requirements as to how money from Measure O would be spent.

More information is available at [www.NoMeasureO.com](http://www.NoMeasureO.com).

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