



T R U R O
PART-TIME
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TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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September 12, 2022

Truro Select Board
Town of Truro
Truro, MA 02666

via email

Re: Tax Classification Hearing FY23

Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing to the Select Board with regard to the upcoming Tax Classification Hearing on September 13th. As you know, overwhelmingly, part-timers oppose the RTE for many reasons. The RTE is abjectly unfair to the part time resident taxpayers in Truro. It is also unfair to all taxpayers as it continues raise taxes on all residents while it obscures the real tax burden on residential properties.

TPRTA believes that the RTE should be eliminated or reduced over time; at the very least it should not be increased. Our members have been vocal in expressing their strong opposition to the RTE to Town leadership for many years. It is not simply the unequal tax treatment this involves, but also that this is imposed in a community where more than 80% of the taxes and fees are already paid by the members of the community the RTE further burdens. At what point does this entire disproportionate tax burden become unconscionable? We believe it is now.

This year, numerous expenditures representing financial subsidies to full-time residents and employees of Town-based businesses have been set in motion to be shared equally among all taxpayers, including:

- Day care vouchers for children up to age 4
- New affordable housing investments

Further, these subsidized initiatives will soon be compounded with the anticipated major expenditures associated with a new DPW and potential need for our own ambulance squad. The idea of shifting more tax burden to the part-time residents displays a distressing lack of respect for your constituents and abuses our goodwill, generosity, and civic engagement.

The Town should take an approach to exemptions and subsidies on the same basis – shared equally by all taxpayers. This allows us to have a true single rate system, clearly transparent to all. It also avoids the taint of a vote-buying scheme in which the beneficiaries of this tax-shift are also the *only* ones who get to have a vote on the matter. It is a form of self-dealing that would be obvious and intolerable in any other setting.

Other towns in the Commonwealth – both on the Cape and in other areas - have rejected adoption of the RTE because of its divisive and adverse effects on adopting communities, not only the part time resident taxpayers, but ALL taxpayers. The inflation crisis driving up assessed values adversely impacts both full-time and part-time residents with moderate means.

With your leadership, the Town can be more creative in finding other means to provide tax relief to those residents who need it. The RTE is not a good way or the best way to meet these needs. We expect and hope our elected leadership will represent the interests of all Truro residents and especially those who already pay the vast majority of taxes and fees to support Town services and operations.

We have advised our membership that this issue is on the agenda for Tuesday's SB meeting. On behalf of the more than 2,000+ properties owned by part-time resident taxpayers in Truro, we urge you to halt, and eventually rescind the RTE and to find a better way to give tax relief to those who need it based on a common and equal residential tax basis.

Thank you for your consideration. As always, we are ready to assist in any way to find another, better approach to tax relief that will serve our community without dividing it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anthony Garrett".

Anthony Garrett, President

cc: Darrin Tangeman, Jon Nahas