



Freedom Party ... YOUR NEW CHOICE, NOW

Freedom Party of Ontario, P.O. Box 2214, Stn. 'A', London, Ontario N6A 4E3 (519) 433-8612

October 15, 1986

Dear FREEDOM PARTY Supporter,

In keeping with our promise to keep you involved with FREEDOM PARTY's on-going campaigns, we'd like to let you know about a particular piece of legislation that is fast becoming a noose around the necks of Ontario's small businessmen: The BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (BIA).

Though the name "BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA" sounds inoffensive enough, BIA legislation is in fact one of the most un-democratic, discriminative, and unethical methods invented yet by governments in an attempt to increase taxation --- WITHOUT direct representation.

BIAs are provincially-legislated, municipally-initiated schemes aimed at coercing businesses into "associations" ostensibly set up to "improve" and/or upgrade certain selected business areas within Ontario communities. Once conscripted into a BIA, businessmen and merchants must pay an additional business tax which is arbitrarily applied by a City Council. The money is used to support an additional bureaucracy, pay for collective advertising for the designated district, and of course, to upgrade existing municipal property.

Becoming a member of a BIA isn't a matter of CHOICE; it's a matter of geography and politics. To help explain how a BIA works, we've enclosed a pamphlet that FREEDOM PARTY initially circulated to two proposed BIA areas in London. Since then, requests have come in for our pamphlet from other affected areas of the province including Metropolitan Toronto.

Of course, those directly conscripted into BIAs aren't the only ones affected by the legislation. It goes without saying that any costs incurred in the operation of the affected businesses are passed on to their consumers. But even more critical is the loss of personal choice and independence to these businesses. And it never takes too long before the precedent of a principle established in one area soon finds its way into other areas of our lives as well.

FREEDOM PARTY has long campaigned against BIAs, and the coercive manner in which they are established.

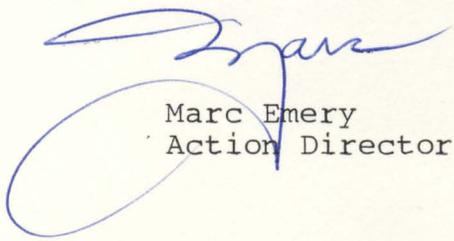
But your help is required to let us expand our campaign to all business communities in Ontario. Your financial assistance can go a long way towards covering the costs of printing and distributing the necessary information needed to create an awareness of the seriousness of the problem. THIS BIA PLAGUE MUST BE STOPPED!

Just as important as your financial contributions is information on your community and business districts. If you've read about a BIA designation in your local papers, if you know about existing BIAs and/or about businesses opposed to their establishment or existence, please get in touch with us.

The key to preventing BIA taxes is to organize potentially affected businesspeople EARLY and to let them know of the negative consequences inherent in this ill-conceived legislation.

YOU can help. And by helping us, we can help others.

Sincerely,
FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO



Marc Emery
Action Director

P.S. Remember, all contributions to FREEDOM PARTY are tax-creditable! A post-paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience.