

From:

Subject: COTI Action Alert



## COTI Action Alert

### COTI Challenges Proposed City Utility Tax

April 30, 2008

#### Why Join COTI?

Membership in COTI enables you to keep informed and to participate in meaningful efforts to ensure good government and preserve the sanctuary character of our Islands.

Send an email to [COTI@coti.org](mailto:COTI@coti.org) for membership information and we will respond promptly.

#### Contact COTI:

By Mail:

COTI

PO Box 88  
Sanibel, FL 33957

Email: [COTI@coti.org](mailto:COTI@coti.org)

Website: [www.COTI.org](http://www.COTI.org)

## The Sanibel City Council is Considering an Option to Create a Tax on Electric & Water Usage

The Sanibel City Council is considering a new tax on utilities of up to 10%. COTI opposes this tax. Raising taxes and imposing new taxes should be a last resort, not the first.

For many years the City of Sanibel's operating budget (excluding special events like Hurricanes Charlie and Wilma) has been increasing at a rate higher than the cost of living index. The City should look to expense reduction and other measures before it imposes new taxes as a means to deal with fiscal problems.

As a result, COTI has issued the following letter to the Council:

April 30, 2008

To: Members of the City Council:

During it's meeting of April 30, 2008, the Board of Directors of The Committee Of The Islands voted to adopt the following position regarding Sanibel's fiscal condition and the proposed utility tax:

1. COTI opposes the adoption of a utility tax as well as any attempt by the City to obtain an option to impose such a tax.

2. COTI requests that the City of Sanibel provide a detailed explanation of the nature and extent of the fiscal problem.

3. COTI requests that the City meet any anticipated revenue shortfall via the reduction of expenditures rather than the imposition of new taxes or an increase in existing taxes.

We are providing the City Council this information now, with the hope that the council will discuss it during the next Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Harvey Padewer  
Chairman, City Governance Committee  
Committee Of The Islands"

COTI urges you to contact the City Council at [Sancouncil@mysanibel.com](mailto:Sancouncil@mysanibel.com) and express your support for COTI's position.

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