

My name is Louis Jambois, and I am the President of the Saint Paul Port Authority. For purposes of your submission requirements, the following information is pertinent:

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Title of Hearing: Tax Reform and Tax Provisions Affecting State and Local Governments (March 19, 2013)

I would like to speak in opposition to any further limitations on tax-exempt bonds.

The Saint Paul Port Authority uses tax-exempt bonds to promote economic development that is significant to the City of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota. The tax exempt bonds that we issue are typically qualified for tax-exempt treatment as a result of being:

- Governmental bonds to finance environmental remediation and infrastructure;
- Qualified 501(c)(3) bonds used to support the work being done in Saint Paul by a very strong non-profit community, including schools, hospitals and social service agencies;
- Qualified exempt facility bonds used to provide and expand Saint Paul's noteworthy district heating and cooling system and provide other needed facilities, such as solid waste disposal; and
- Small issue bonds for manufacturing projects that provide much-needed job creation and tax revenue.

Over the last ten years, the Saint Paul Port Authority has issued approximately \$332,500,000 of tax-exempt bonds in these four categories.

The work of the Saint Paul Port Authority includes:

- Contamination remediation of more than 1,200 acres of brownfield property—property that could not be re-purposed without remediation.
- The development of 21 business centers on former brownfield sites.

- Those business centers are home to businesses that have created more than 21,000 living wage jobs (not including construction jobs); and
- Have resulted in facilities that now contribute more than \$32 million of property tax revenue to the City; and/or

The availability of tax-exempt financing is a significant and valuable tool to the Saint Paul Port Authority. Without it, we would not be able to provide comprehensive economic development support to the City in general, or to the nonprofit community that plays such a critical role in the life of Saint Paul and the greater Metro East community.

It is essential for local governmental units, such as the Saint Paul Port Authority, to have the power and flexibility to provide financing that results in job creation, tax revenue and the building and repair of infrastructure. Please do not take that away from us by further restricting our power to issue tax exempt bonds.