

From: [Vargas, Roberto](#)
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Please don't eliminate the SDDTAC
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Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

I am writing as an SF native and one of the collaborators on the part of UCSF who worked with policymakers Scott Weiner and Eric Mar to help craft the Soda Tax with UCSF scientists.

The Soda Tax was crafted to reduce consumption of sugary drinks and collect revenue to spend on interventions that help SF mitigate the health impacts of sugary drinks. That includes supporting breastfeeding, access to clean drinking water, access to physical activity and healthy foods, and education about why sugary drinks are harmful to our health. The Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC) was formed as part of this policy to ensure SF had the expert advice of people from a broad range of experience and expertise for how to reduce consumption of sugary drinks, and how to mitigate the health impacts.

I hear you all are recommending the potential alignment or merging of the SDDTAC with the Food Security Task Force. However, the Food Security Task Force is currently slated to sunset in 2026 and is not aligned with the legislative charge of the sugary drinks distributor tax or the sugary drinks distributor tax advisory committee. The SDDT and SDDTAC is more than food.

I worry the Soda Industry will exploit forgetting of the original intent of the tax to convince SF voters that the politicians have lied, and failed. The soda industry broke records spending 10 million to fight against the soda tax proposal. They got Cleveland to repeal their soda tax about a decade ago, and likely will pounce on the opportunity to force a repeal of the SF tax.

We need to protect the tax and its power to reduce consumption; protect the revenue for use in SF, as guided by the experts on the SDDTAC, which is about much more than just food security. It only began being used for food security during the pandemic, but that didn't erase its original purpose. Please, don't eliminate this important tax and advisory.

Roberto Ariel Vargas, MPH

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