☐ Primary Argument in Favor (300 Words)	X Primary Argument Against (300 Words)

PRIMARY ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE U

Lack of Oversight: one reason to vote NO.

The sales tax measure will increase Richmond's existing sales tax from 9.0% to 9.5%. There is no sunset clause (tax expiration date) or citizen oversight committee. The city will reach its 5% sales tax cap with this measure. The city is allowed a 1% sales tax cap by state law.

The city of Richmond has a 15% average unemployment rate. It has flat revenue for the next few years. The city of Richmond, with almost 103,000 residents, has approximately 805 city employees. Concord, with 122,000 residents, has approximately 385 city employees. 70.5% of the city budget is salaries/benefits.

The city's unfunded OPEB (Other Personnel Employee Benefits) liability is $76.1 million. The city pays $2.3 million per year for a pension obligation bond. What is the guarantee that this tax will not be used to pay for spiraling pension, debt, and salary costs? General fund tax money can be used for anything. Is this a pension tax?

High sales tax is a regressive tax. It hurts the middle class, fixed incomes, and the lower incomes! It will make goods and services priced higher in Richmond than cities with lower sales tax. In comparison, the city of Vacaville, CA has a 7.875% sales tax.

The Contra Costa Taxpayers Association recommends voters to oppose Measure U because the sales tax has no sunset clause, nor a citizen oversight committee.

Lack of Oversight: one reason to vote NO on Measure U.

The undersigned Proponent(s) or Author(s) hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Name **Alex Aliferis**

Title **Executive Director, Contra Costa Taxpayers Association**

Signature _Alex Alif_

Name_____

Title_____

Signature_____

Name_____

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Title_____

Signature_____

Election Date: _____

District: _____

Measure: _____

March 7, 2014