

**YOUR NAME/ORGANIZATION  
ADDRESS/CONTACT INFORMATION**

**DATE**

**MR./MRS./MS NAME**

**POSITION – MPP, MP, ETC.**

**ADDRESS – preferably at Queen’s Park or Ottawa**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As one of your constituents who is also a 5 pin bowler, I ask you to act to influence government to remove membership and entry fees for Provincial /sport Organizations from the list of taxable goods and services that will be subject to the harmonized Sales Tax in 2010.

During the past decade, increasing attention has been focused on adult and childhood obesity and lack of physical conditioning of the general population. At the same time, federal and provincial funds have been designated to reverse this trend. In Ontario, the Ministry of Health Promotion was created and partners with Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) to develop and implement sport programs to improve general health through physical activity. The key phrase is “partners” as each PSO invests member funds to participate. Member funds are a combination of membership fees, entry fees, fundraising activities and sponsorship donations. In today’s uncertain economy those funds are maintained at the lowest possible level to encourage participation.

The introduction of the harmonized Sales Tax in 2010 threatens to erode the ability of PSOs to continue to offer quality programs and services at a moderate cost. Membership and entry fees are already subject to GST, however, the harmonized Sales Tax will add additional cost to previously strained programs and services.

Unlike many other sports, 5 pin Bowling is subject to further disadvantage as the premises used to conduct programs are privately owned. Each game and practise session not only pays for usage, but also pays sales tax on the services/rental time. These facilities are not subject to subsidies from the public purse. Instead each bowling centre is operated as an independent private business and contributes to the local economy through taxes at the municipal, regional, provincial and federal levels. Our members are paying those taxes every time they use the facilities. The harmonized Sales Tax may be the proverbial straw that cripples 5 pin Bowling, a uniquely Canadian sport, forever.

I urge you to use your influence as a duly elected representative of constituents in your riding to promote to your colleagues the injustice of the proposed application of the harmonized Sales Tax on Sport in general and on 5 pin Bowling in particular.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Name

Position/member