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NOVEMBER 27, 2017

Philadelphia beverage tax collections slump to lowest levels since January
Continued failures come days before Chicago-area tax is abolished

Contact: Anthony Campisi
(215) 735-6760

Anthony@Ceislermedia.com

The Ax the Philly Bev Tax Coalition has issued the following statement after beverage tax collections in October came in nearly 20 percent short of projections, dropping more than \$1 million over the course of a month:

“With October collections slumping to their lowest levels since January, coming in nearly 20 percent short of projections, it is now practically impossible for Mayor Kenney to fulfill the beverage tax collections promises he made to Philadelphia families.

“Tax collections dropped more than \$1 million from September to October, adding to the mountain of evidence that Philadelphia’s beverage tax is unsustainable and bad public policy. This tax that has never met the city’s full collection target, coming in millions of dollars short – despite attempts by the administration to move the goalposts and artificially lower the bar to try to confuse Philadelphia families.

“But Philadelphians aren’t confused. They know that in 11 short months this crushing 1.5 cents per ounce levy has cost the city hundreds of family-sustaining union jobs and raised costs for working families, while failing to meet its promises. That’s why more than 60 percent of voters oppose this tax.

“This latest news is particularly fitting because the Chicago area’s beverage tax will be abolished on Friday – following a massive outcry that caused the Cook County Board of Commissioners to vote to repeal that tax a mere two months after it went into effect. Families in Philadelphia deserve the same relief as families in Chicago. It’s time for Philadelphia to follow Chicago’s lead and repeal this destructive tax.”

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The Ax the Bev Tax Coalition is a partnership between Philadelphia families and businesses negatively impacted by the city’s new regressive beverage tax. For more information visit www.axthebevtax.com.