

Professional Machine Quilting in Washington State Survey Comments, Part 1

Compiled from a survey conducted by
Cindy Roth, Longarm University

Question: The following quote was included as part of the information I received for this presentation: "make some suggestions on how our state government can assist quilters" Do you have any comments about how Washington State can help professional quilters? Please write your comments below.

1	Make the business designation easier to understand. Also tax forms could be simpler.
2	I'm just starting out so I need information on what's available for anyone new to the home business field.
3	The various sales tax rates I need to charge because I mail these quilts back to the owner is crazy. I guess greed will show it's ugly head every time!
4	I am concerned that providing this information to the state may increase further license fees for machine quilters business perhaps a contractor license, more regulation of our business. The state is broke now and is looking of ways to collect more money from self employed workers. I am not interested in more regulation. Be careful of information provided to the state.
5	The IRS states that if the quilting business does not show a profit, that after a period of time it can no longer be a business for tax purposes and only a hobby. With the cost of the machine and supplies this makes it difficult to sustain for a part time quilting business
6	In terms of small business...lessen the taxation. that would be a great start.
7	Stop making the Sale Tax Report Form so difficult. I used to be able to fill mine out myself, now because it is so complicated I have to go into the Dept. of Revenue and have them fill it out.
8	The tax forms need to be "friendlier" to fill out and there needs to be a consensus on the type of business (i.e. manufacturing? Service? etc.)
9	Make personal fabric, batting and thread exempt from sales tax. We make samples and should not have to pay sales tax on them.
10	I'm dealing with some zoning conflict issues right now, but hopefully they won't put me out of business. In general, I have found my local tax assessors office to be very supportive.

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11	Yes I do. I have always felt that the SERVICE we offer to our customers should not have to be charged sales tax. This is a service where the customer brings everything they need for us to machine quilt their layers together. It is a service just like a hair dresser (who doesn't charge sales tax) who offers hair cutting to their clients. Please consider changing this for us.
12	State should understand there is a difference between someone who sews, pieces, and quilts, and there is a difference in fabrics, batting and threads,
13	Stress the importance of small, in-home business in Washington State.
14	Clarify the sales tax rules. Some longarmers collect sales tax only on batting, others on batting and quilting.
15	Provide a personal property tax credit. Professional quilting is in general a small business and the personal property tax on our business related machines can be a financial burden on a business that generates fairly low sales volume.
16	eliminate the B&O tax. Charge sales tax on products only, not the service provided. Recognize us as an industry so paying state taxes would be easier
17	Cut taxes on small business.
18	no taxes
19	They could stop charging our B&O tax based on us being manufacturers as opposed to a service industry.
20	no state income taxes...lower the taxes we have now and stop spending foolishly.

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21	The state needs to put a filter on the DOL website so that folks can not register a business name that is unavailable. I am finding myself in a legal battle due to the fact that, in the last year, 2 other quilters have chosen my same exact business name without searching to see if it was available. They assumed that if it was not, the application would be rejected. The state says that the trade name is mine since I registered it first, but they will not enforce it. I have to file a civil suit. This is a headache that no small business owner needs, and a simple website filter could have prevented it happening in the first place. One of the other business owners was very nice about it and agreed to change. The other has not. She spent money to buy business cards, etc., and she doesn't want her money to be wasted, in spite of the fact that she did not do her homework in the first place. Unfortunately, she is going to find herself paying more for legal fees than it would cost to change her card, and it seems to me that this is a situation that should not have been allowed to happen in the first place!
22	I don't see a role for the state government in the quilting industry. I hope it does not charge tax on this service. Quilters probably make less than minimum wage as it is. A tax would be difficult.
23	help to make b&o / sales tax rules less confusing for small businesses.
24	Don't charge sales tax as it (quilting) is a service
25	lessen the burden of small business taxes.
26	Create it's own code for reporting sales tax to the Dept of Revenue.
27	Most professional quilters work out of their home around other schedules and obligations and don't have a lot of time for figuring out the rules that are placed on our businesses by the legislators. More simplification of paperwork would help.
28	Tax deductions for charity quilting.....Project Linus, Quilts of Valor, families who have lost their homes, cancer victims etc.
29	Stay out of my business!! The last intrusion, destination based sales tax, made things more difficult for me on the business end!

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30	Easier classification for our line of business. Streamlined knowledge so that the accounting professional can accurately guide the professional quilter.
31	DO AWAY WITH THE B&O TAX
32	get us in on some group health coverage
33	This might be for County not State but I would like to see us changed from manufacturing to service so we wouldn't have to charge sales tax on labor.
34	Do not charge sales tax for labor such as quilting.
35	The personal property income tax charged is burdensome on the quilting industry. The machines we use are expensive and the \$15,000 exemption for sole proprietors is not enough. Please consider raising the exemption to \$40,000.
36	Make the tax code simpler.
37	Don't start adding extra taxes to us! Clarify what we are with the DOR. We get told different classifications to use every time we check.
38	Have clearly defined parameters on what our business is, and don't make the state tax so complicated. I've been told to tax the fabric if I sell it, but if I sell it and use it in the quilt, then it's not taxable. That is only one of many confusing issues when it comes to the business aspect of our industry
39	My (our) business is dependent on the viability of retail quilt shops. If small business owners that make minimal profit are hampered by taxes and fees, then they will not survive. We have seen too many local quilt shops close their doors in this recent economy. If something can be done to help all WA small business owners, all of WA will benefit by increased sales, including my business, and thus stimulating the state economy.
40	grants to help start-up & support quilting businesses

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41	I pay my WA sales tax on-line. It would be really nice if there was not the "convenience" charge added when paying with a credit card.
42	There are many quilters out there that do not have business licenses or collect and pay sales tax. That makes it hard on those of us who are following the business guidelines.
43	Promote craft/art business with a marketing campaign promoting made in the USA by American home based artists, keep the arts home.
44	Lower the sales tax on everything - less money spent on taxes allows more money to be spent on fabric, classes and books - whatever the quilter would like to spend their money on!!
45	I don't think we should have to charge State Tax on our work as the customer has already paid the tax when buying the material at their local quilt store.
46	State paperwork could be simplified. It is onerous to file the tax reports and try to keep current.
47	By not ruining a Small Business by OVER taxing it!
48	Do NOT place restrictions/laws/rules on Cottage industries. Allow us to regulate ourselves.
49	Vocational funding to facilitate acquiring skill sets for improved proficiency necessary to becoming a professional long arm quilter
50	Make it very easy for very small home businesses to function legally. Provide check list of what is needed initially and annually.
51	Keep quilting sales tax free.
52	Simplify and clarify the manufacturing portion of the combined business tax report.
53	Vocational funding to facilitate acquiring skill sets for improved proficiency necessary to becoming a professional long arm quilter

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54	Make it very easy for very small home businesses to function legally. Provide check list of what is needed initially and annually.
55	Keep quilting sales tax free.
56	Simplify and clarify the manufacturing portion of the combined business tax report.
57	Stay out of our cottage industry
58	change category from manufacturing to retail
59	Yes, figure out the sales tax thing. The tax office gives different answers to everyone and it is very confusing,. There isn't an actual category for machine quilting and some say it is manufacturing (requiring sales tax) and some say it is a service.
60	leave us alone
61	Punish those who are quilting for income but not paying appropriate taxes. Those of us who follow the laws are penalized by having less income from our business.
62	Lower the sales tax on everything - less money spent on taxes allows more money to be spent on fabric, classes, books - whatever the quilter would like to spend their money on!!
63	I don't think we should have to charge State Tax on our work as the customer has already paid the tax when buying the material at their local quilt store.
64	State paperwork could be simplified. It is onerous to file the tax reports and try to keep current.
65	By not ruining a Small Business by OVER taxing it!