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● INSIDE



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Pages 15-20



"I feel Philadelphia would be negatively impacted by a smoking ban because so many of our customers come from outside the boundaries of our city and could elect to frequent establishments near their suburban Pennsylvania or New Jersey homes as a result of the ban. Subsequently, Philly would stand to lose a lot of business and taxes to the suburbs, which would be disappointing."

Barry Gutin,
operating partner, Cuba Libre, Old City

Realtors to fight tax hike

Plan to raise property transfer levy has industry group crying foul

NATALIE KOSTELNI
STAFF WRITER

A proposal to increase the real estate transfer tax across Pennsylvania has spurred Realtors into action. They vow to defeat the measure, while asserting that lawmakers too easily mine their territory to find new revenue sources.

The lawmakers who are sponsoring the bill believe boosting the tax is an important component in a bigger package of four bills that aim to change funding sources for school districts. One part of the bill would eliminate the property tax.

That still doesn't sit well with Realtors.

"They are looking for a solution to the property tax issue, and we're not against that, but we don't think this is fair — and it's not fiscally sound," said Greg Herb, a board member of the

See TAX, Page 34

