

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City “Challenge of Legendary Okayama” (27)
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【Mailing specialty for Furusato taxation starts】

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

We will propose a revised draft budget at a regular city council in September 2nd regarding people who donate a certain amount as Furusato taxation can receive regional specialty.

“Furusato taxation” has been established 6 years ago. If you donate a certain amount to your birthplace or municipality you wish to donate, the allotment more than 2,000 yen will be tax deductible. You might think “why now?”.

14 cities of Okayama prefecture except Okayama city already ship a regional specialty to those who donated money. However, Okayama city now just sends a mascot strap, an admission ticket of a permanent exhibition to a museum, and a thank you letter.

I don't know if that was the cause, but for 6 years from 2008, Okayama city received 134 donations, the total of 18,800,000 yen. On the contrary, 5,266 donations were made by Okayama citizens to other municipalities and the total of tax deductible was about 69,000,000 yen.

There is a special cause that many people donated money to the disaster area by the great earthquake in Tohoku 3 years ago. But before and after the quake, the balance of income and expenditure of Okayama city has been in the red.

Due to this situation, Okayama city needs to promote more about its “Furusato taxation”. As a first step, we came to a conclusion that we should show our sincerity by sending a regional

specialty.

As for the specific specialty, we will need to think about it from now. Once the revised draft budget is approved, we are planning to send the specialty equivalent for 3,000 yen to 5,000 yen to those who donate money after October 1st depending on the amount of donation. The shipment will be made from December.

Okayama citizens can also donate money so the specialty might be peach, muscat grape, or regional sweets that local people can enjoy. We also hope it will be a good chance to promote Okayama's various local specialties and the distribution. Please tell us if you have good idea.

In order to rejuvenate the local area, it is reported that the central government is considering that the limit of the tax-deductible amount should be double and an easier procedure (no need to file an income tax return). If the system is revised, Okayama city should respond to it such as raising the price of specialty.

Due to the start of the shipment of specialty, we are planning to introduce the online donation and online payment which is a convenient and easy way (will start from December).

I hope you will donate as Furusato taxation to Okayama city to support the city or your birthplace.