

A Spending Cap Should Be Rigorously Enforced

Since the promulgation of the state income tax government spending has increased by over 200%. The Democratically controlled legislature has been the in forefront of an ever-expanding agenda of increasing services, imposing mandates, catering to special interests, pursuing policies of perceived social benefit, and centralized regional control to redistribute aid through the newly established regional council of government organizations. Despite concerns from The Connecticut Business and Industry Association, the Yankee Institute, GE, Aetna, countless businesses and small businesses, and state residents the Democratically controlled legislature has been pursuing anti business policies and a tax structure that is absolutely hostile to investment of any kind.

The businesses attracted in one decade with grants and subsidies leave in the next after the grants and subsidies run out. The high cost structure and regulatory environment you created along with the high utility rates you permitted are not conducive to long term sustainable investment. We are in competition for jobs with 49 other states. The businesses located here in Connecticut are in competition with the businesses located in those other states. Connecticut's focusing on just creating and subsidizing job creation is not enough. Businesses need a stable, predictable, competitive environment that is favorable to long term commitment. Connecticut business favorability ratings, as we are all aware, consistently trail those of the other states.

We are way beyond the point of knee jerk solutions, one-time quick fixes and gimmicks. Targeting, penalizing and cherry picking communities for cuts in state aid because of their favorable and prudent tax and budgeting policies is unconscionable. My heart goes out to the folks that live in Fairfield. Because of bad state practices by this state legislature they are losing GE and now you are cutting \$2 million in educational funding. This is appalling.

Do to the severity of our fiscal situation there should be rigid enforcement of a spending cap, a sharp across the board reduction in spending, an elimination of regulations that impair or interfere with business operations, renegotiation of unaffordable state labor contracts, and yes immediate permanent tax cuts to stem our population losses and reduce our corporate exodus.

There are at least 45 other states doing a better job of managing their affairs and taxpayers are fed up and angry!

Barry Michelson
Stamford, Connecticut