

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment

My wife and I were just in Tempe, Arizona where we were able to catch a Spring Training game between the Angels and the Royals. I love baseball, and even though it wasn't a Giants game, it was still great to enjoy my favorite sport in what I consider the perfect temperature in seats so close to the players. We also visited the Grand Canyon and were in awe over its sheer size. It's an unbelievable sight, and everyone should get to cross that off their bucket list. What a magnificent and overwhelming work of art by God. Even the flatlands of the desert are beautiful, with all the cacti, red sand, and unique land formations. Of course, I can't be swayed to find anything more dramatic and beautiful than our own Humboldt County, with the lush green hills, towering Redwoods, and pristine rivers. Like I said, I loved the weather in Arizona, but what was even more appealing, was its friendly business climate. Unfortunately, because of the numerous regulations and taxes imposed on business by our narrow-minded, short-sighted politicians, our biggest export from California is our businesses that are relocating to places like Arizona. I know this is true, but why don't our politicians care? Every liberal politician like Wes Chesboro needs to experience the difference for themselves. We were at Arizona Mills Mall on a Saturday afternoon and went back the same evening. It was crowded both times to the point of annoyance. There wasn't one empty storefront. It felt like a big celebration. In fact, everything in Arizona was bustling and vibrant. Hotels were being remodeled, and it was difficult to find a vacancy. It was refreshing to see non-government funded construction. Restaurants were full - with people waiting to get in. Traffic was congested. Now, I don't particularly enjoy crowds, traffic, or waiting in lines, but I do appreciate a thriving business climate, because it offers opportunity, and

it's the best way to provide employment. Rather than homeless street people begging for a handout, there is availability to work. In fact, we only saw one beggar, and that was on the California/Arizona border at the busiest gas station I've ever experienced.

Seriously, cars were honking to get a place at the pumps. Why? So they wouldn't have to get gas in California - the same reason I stopped. We chose not to get overpriced, overtaxed gas with additives that diminish fuel economy and probably damage the engine as well. Arizona is a state that encourages and embraces small business, and that was evident in the energy we felt at the mall. I seriously wish Wes Chesboro would visit a mall in California, particularly our Bayshore Mall. There is practically a whole wing that is empty. The floor tiles are broken and lifting. Not only is it in dangerous disrepair, it's also uninviting, depressing, and sad. It's literally a ghost mall. Before I experienced the lively Arizona mall, I attributed the deadness of our mall to online shopping and the economy, but clearly this is not the case everywhere. Perhaps it's just in California and other liberal states. Liberalism talks a good talk, but in reality it's an unsustainable way of life. Our government cannot financially help the people it deems deserving through taxing, regulating, and levying fees. This can only be done through healthy business practices. Until this reality sinks into the heads of our thick-skulled politicians, we can expect our dying businesses, and the critical resources they previously provided to our government, to continue to leave our state, and thrive where they are allowed to be successful without political oppression.

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