

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment

The Eureka Fair Wage Act, or Measure R, will be on the November ballot for residents of Eureka to decide if this is good for the city. This proposal is being advertised as a minimum living wage for workers in the city limits. The measure being voted on is for a \$12 per hour minimum wage. This will absolutely 100% kill the economy in Eureka. The short sighted people in favor of this are not living in the real world. Humboldt County is an extremely difficult place for a business to be successful. The costs of transportation in and out are amongst the highest in the nation. Our fuel prices are the highest in the nation. The regulations imposed on a business are excessive. This isn't just my opinion, look at what has happened to the industrial base of our economy in the last 25 years. We have lost thousands and thousands of jobs to these regulations and high costs of doing business. The Pacific Lumber Company employed 1,600 people. These employees were paid a living wage. The employees children were given money to attend college. They poured millions of dollars into our local economy. Eel River Sawmill, Eureka Fisheries, Louisiana Pacific Sawmill and Pulp Mill, Simpson Pulp Mill, Simpson Sawmill on the Arcata Bottoms, Blue Lake Forest Products, Yakima, Humboldt Flakeboard, West Coast Hardwoods all closed their doors and the list goes on and on. There were numerous local businesses that survived because of these industrial manufacturing facilities; Bistrin's, Daly's, McGaraghan's, Arthur Johnson's, Bill Beasley's, Foodmart, Mark and Save and this list is much longer than the first. The pulp mills were over regulated for air quality. The environmentalists are proud of their achievements in closing these facilities. What is the outcome of this? We now ship our wood chips to China, where they are made into pulp in facilities that are spewing black

revenue, they never balance the budget for very long. We have several assessments on our property taxes already. The Humboldt Fire District, which technically doesn't exist, has two taxes added to my property tax bill. The schools have assessments on our property tax bills too. Remember an assessment is just another tax. The Lottery infused billions of dollars into the government coffers and they still can't balance the budget. Their solution is, and always is, to devise a way for the tax payer to open his wallet again and again and again. If we are dumb enough to pass the sales tax increases, I guarantee that the budget will be back in the red in one or two years. The government is the most inefficient entity I can think of and giving them more money is an extremely bad business practice. If a business never operated within their means, do you think the bank would just keep giving them more money? The government budgetary process is a financial disaster that can only be fixed if it collapses in on itself and then be rebuilt. This will hurt for a little while, but in the long run, it is the only solution to get us back on track. Before you vote, remember 384 employees who work for Humboldt County make over \$100,000 and when they retire, before you, they will have a pension that is over \$100,000 and you will still be working, paying taxes and trying to figure out how to retire on a small Social Security check. Vote no on all new taxes.

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