

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment

Humboldt County is a great place to live, but I feel discouraged that none of my local, state or federal representatives are conservative. Sometimes, after I talk to my relatives in Montana and Texas, I get the urge to just pack up and get out of this tax-and-spend environment our politicians have created. Their politicians are a thousand times more fiscally responsible than our politicians, and they do balance their budgets and support small business, but the downside is their weather is extreme, and the terrain, for the most part, is monotonous and bleak. Humboldt and Del Norte Counties are perfect places to live. We have mild weather, clean air, clean water, and breathtaking scenery. I love to fish, and this is a fisherman's paradise. Since my wife and I have purchased our 2015 fishing licenses, we have gone red-tailed perch fishing off the South Jetty, fished for cutthroat trout at Big Lagoon, rainbow trout at Freshwater Lagoon, lingcod off the rocks in Trinidad and went to Crescent City and caught a limit of crab. My family in Montana has been too busy to fish because they are shoveling snow and trying to keep warm. We are truly blessed to live where we live. In less than an hour you can have a snowball fight in the winter or you can get 100 degree temperatures in the summer. We have several lagoons that are close by with easy access. Our six magnificent rivers are just waiting for us to go rafting, fishing or to have a picnic. If you are physically able, the Trinity Alps and Marble Mountain Wilderness areas are close. These two wilderness areas have well-groomed trails and camping spots throughout. The lakes are a great place to fish, and the scenery is spectacular. I've traveled to many places and nothing compares to the Northcoast of California. We take the redwoods for granted. These majestic trees have no equal. They are truly a sight to behold. Fern Canyon is a place

every resident and tourist should visit. Soft, lush, green ferns grow like velvet up valley walls - what a place. I love to go to Orick just to look at the elk. The elk population is healthy, and I believe you can see more elk in Humboldt County than you can if you visit Yellowstone National Park. At Freshwater Lagoon we have a lake on one side of the freeway and the crashing waves of the ocean on the other - both visible and easily accessible. That is something so unique and rare. I love Humboldt County and consider myself blessed to call it my home. All three of my children still live here, along with my five grandkids. Going to their soccer games and having family dinners 2-3 times per month is something I hope to never take for granted. Sure, the political environment isn't what I wish it were, but every time I travel through a big city, I really appreciate our small population base. If everyone knew what a perfect place Humboldt County is for raising a family, we would have a million people living here. Unfortunately, the timber and fishing industries have been over-regulated and are no longer our economic base. Government jobs have replaced Simpson, The Pacific Lumber Company, Eureka Fisheries, Eel River Sawmills and the many small mills and fish processing businesses that used to make up the bulk of our economy. These businesses were sustainable, and the government jobs that replaced them are not. I sure hope my family can afford to stay in Humboldt County, because, in my opinion, I am blessed to live in a place that is almost like heaven on earth.

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