

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment.

My comments over the years have been very critical of a government system that is snowballing in size. It is a system that is heading for a major collapse. Yes, our government at every level is heading into bankruptcy. Most of our economic numbers are worse than the numbers in Greece. As the world's number one customer, our creditors and vendors can't afford to see the United States of America collapse financially, but if we don't turn this financial disaster around, it will eventually happen regardless of how much Chinese crap we consume. Unfortunately, the people in charge of local, state and federal finances are oblivious to the economic disaster that is heading our way. They simply continue to spend more than they take in and try every conceivable way to increase revenue. They mislead the taxpayers into voting for new taxes and issuing more bonds. They always advertise that without these new revenue streams, our safety will suffer and the education system will deteriorate. Behind the scenes every opportunity to manipulate the poor working person into giving the system more of their hard earned dollars is being implemented into our everyday life. These same government officials nickel and dime us by increasing permit fees and the cost to enjoy our parks. Everywhere you turn in your life the government has their hand in your pocket squeezing every last penny they can out of you. Sitting in my house writing this comment, I look around my house and see that the government is getting money from me in the form of property taxes, taxes on my cable bill, taxes on my PG&E bill, taxes on my telephone bill, taxes on my propane bill, taxes on the gasoline I use to mow my lawn, taxes on the mixed gas I use for my weed whacker and taxes are tacked on to my cell phone bill as well. We are bombarded with fees on everything around us. I pay fees

to have a septic tank, security system and a fee just because I live in the jurisdiction of CalFire. Everything we buy from a soda to a refrigerator to tires for our vehicle has some sort of government add on. I drove by the Fire Station on Myrtle Avenue on Sunday and it sickened me to see the Temporarily Closed sign out front. Wow, did we ever get deceived by our elected officials when we passed the sales tax increase for Humboldt County and the sales tax extension for the City of Eureka. Several City of Eureka Public Safety Officers lost their jobs recently. Closing Fire Stations and eliminating Public Safety Officers is what we received by paying more money in taxes. Meanwhile over fifty cents of every government dollar spent in Humboldt County is spent on welfare type programs. What are we getting for this expense? Are the number of people feeding off the system getting smaller? Are there fewer street people wandering around with their shopping carts? Has the drug problem diminished? Throwing money at the problem doesn't solve the social issues we are facing, it compounds them. The proof is what we see driving around everyday. The government continues to grow every year and the number of people working in the private sector continues to decline. This puts more pressure on those of us in the workforce to pay more in taxes. I have a good friend who just recently packed up his wife and two children and moved to Idaho. That is two taxpayers paying taxes in Idaho and two school children attending public school in another state. More takers and fewer producers is the net result of Humboldt County Administrative Policy.

This has been Tom Cookman with a Community Comment