

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment.

I have used this forum to point out what I think is wrong with our government and the list is so long I will never reach the end. Humboldt County is my home. I was born here, I live on property my family purchased in 1882, I went to local schools and graduated from Humboldt State University, I raised my family here and I went to work when I was 15 and have had a job everyday since. I've never taken a penny in government assistance and neither did my mom, even though she was a single mom raising three boys as a waitress. I remember sorting her tip money and rolling pennies just to buy bread. I'm about as local as you can get. Unfortunately, being a lifelong taxpayer gets me nowhere. My Supervisor is Mark Lovelace and my calls to him go unanswered. My home was burglarized on April 15th and even though we know who committed the crime, all I hear from the District Attorney is that they haven't reviewed the case yet. The Sheriff Department sent the case to the DA and nothing happens. Breaking and entering is such a minor crime that their resources are spent going after violent offenders. Meanwhile, the thieves are roaming the streets ripping off everything they can get their hands on because there aren't any consequences for their behavior. Every thief needs to go over the risk reward debate in their mind before they commit the crime. In Humboldt County the risk portion is so minimal that even if they get caught they are released in just a few hours. The hard working taxpayer in Humboldt County is nothing more than an ATM machine to our government officials. We just pay and pay and pay and then, when we are seeking justice, they are silent. When we need to actually use services like the Planning Department, we have to pay fees that increase every year. If you know a contractor, ask them what it cost for a thirty minute site inspection or how

much a building permit cost. It is disturbing how our government has evolved into this out-of-control bonfire that uses tax dollars for fuel. The reason Donald Trump is popular and gaining in the polls is because we are all sick and tired of the government. We are taxed beyond our limits and our taxes are being used for cushy jobs. We get robbed and nothing happens. We see a road crew of six or seven standing around a pothole and six months later the pothole returns. Every license, permit, toll, surcharge, assessment, inspection, registration and tax has increased over the years and the benefits the taxpayers receive have diminished in this same timeframe. Sacramento figured out a way to increase your PG&E bill in order to subsidize the poor welfare recipient who has to stay home with their air conditioner on all day while you are at work. The energy gluttons who are in the fourth tier saw their price per unit decrease while those of us at work saw our bills go up since we get into the higher tiers faster. This is a classic example of how a sneaky government redistributes wealth. It is a tax increase without the word tax ever being mentioned. In the past, we paid taxes and we saw tangible benefits from these taxes. Now, the only benefits being created by our taxes are the lavish benefits government workers are receiving. How sickening is it that a mid-level manager, without a college degree, working in the welfare department makes more money than a school teacher? Vote no on the proposed sales tax increase. This has been Tom Cookman with a Community Comment.