

A natural disaster is a hateful thing, but it's part of our world. Hurricanes tear apart cities, tornadoes rip from above and earthquakes tear apart homes. When a natural disaster happens, communities mourn their losses, the community agrees that it was a very bad experience and then they eventually dust themselves off--getting to the work of repairing and rebuilding.

With that in mind, perhaps it is the man-made disasters that are worse. Far worse, because we never seem to learn. With man-made disasters, there is seldom a period for healing and reflection. Instead, it's all about hating and blaming.

Families that stay unemployed while remaining dependent on welfare handouts. Families..their spirit broken--because a welfare check replaces the self-assurance and responsibility of hardwork. That's a man-made disaster.

Crippling high taxes that stifle wealth creation and discourage innovation. Man-made.

The federal seizure of our health care system. The similar VA scandals. All, are Man Made disasters.

How do we find a calm to this constant storm? Ummmm...When was the last time you heard a public servant talk about weighing the unseen costs of a popular idea? If we had politicians that did the job right, they would ask that question every single time a new law, a new program, or new tax crossed their desk. They would ask, what does this thing cost?

An easy example is the minimum wage. Sure it sounds like a good idea, but what is the cost? In this scenario The modest pay raise is easily defeated by the large scale loss of jobs, the burden of rising prices the increased suffering for low-skilled people. California's 15 dollar an hour man-made disaster could have been stopped simply by looking at the unseen costs.

Today's community comment is brought to you courtesy of the fear I have of our November ballot! Sure enough there is a tax increase proposal that Humboldt County residents will get to vote on. Those who will actually pay for the new tax are probably outnumbered by those that will feel good voting for it.

The Tax burden on northern california folks is way too high. According to the 2016 Tax Foundation's State Business Tax Climate Study, California is ranked number 48 for the most oppressive taxes on business. A liberal could make the argument that the wealthy living in San Fran or Los Angeles can afford the high taxes, but nobody should argue that Humboldt can.

So why should we pretend? There is no payoff if taxes go up. You will not be getting anything different than what you have now. However you will get plenty of unseen costs. If we raise taxes, then you will see more businesses close, more unemployment and even more homeless on our already crowded streets.

You can't tax yourself to prosperity. Strong economies are built on businessmen and the courageous. As for the November Ballot--Vote NO--Let the government fend for itself this year. That would be a man-made solution.

This is Anthony Mantova - Community Comment