

The Democrats' Proposed Tax Increases are Job Killers

By Don Beezley

Bad ideas lead to bad policies. There are those who have the idea that government can create jobs by sucking resources out of the productive private sector and funneling them into the pockets of government.

This is a bad idea. Such bad ideas have lead our Governor-for-the-short-term, Bill Ritter, and his friends in the state legislature, to conclude that shaking down Colorado businesses and consumers is somehow the secret to prosperity. This is bad policy in the best of times. It's job suicide in a recession.

Thirteen proposed tax increases totaling \$300,000,000 over two years are under consideration right now in the state legislature. They include charging sales taxes on services like direct mail, taxing online purchases, and taxing some foods. They even want to tax the napkin you get with your sub sandwich. In an act of "fairness," to make sure they aren't only clobbering consumers, they have also directly targeted a broad range of businesses with various tax hikes—sapping resources from the very people you are depending on for your income and your job.

Naturally, they want to pass this massive tax increase without a vote of the people as required by Colorado's Constitution and the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). Politicians despise being held accountable with limits on their power, which is exactly why we need those limits.

These latest proposed taxes add a destructive burden on top of the \$1 Billion in new taxes the legislature has already levied on us during this recession. A client of mine recently received a reassessment on her small business real estate—raising her property taxes \$3,900. Another client in these tight times said, "I just feel like the noose around my neck is getting tighter and tighter every day." Sound like people who will be expanding or able to hire anyone soon?

All of this is on top of a bevy of new regulations making it harder for Colorado businesses to compete in key Colorado industries like energy.

How much more can we take?

To go back a few years for a reference, that "giant sucking sound you hear" is precious capital being sucked out of the economy, along with precious dollars being sucked out of your pockets.

And the job you, your friend or neighbor needs is getting sucked out of the economy right along with it.

Tell your representatives: *No new taxes. No new burdens. No new barriers to recovery for Colorado.*

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