

Hi All:

Yes I do think taxes are strangling our once vibrant economy. As an owner of commercial real estate company we have seen minimal start-ups and companies that do not want to move to CT. Job growth is non-existent and many office buildings have vacancies. These buildings historically have always had minimal vacancies and now are about 20 % vacant and increasing. Having higher property taxes, with lower rents due to the market and vacancies equates to these properties not making any money or a return on investment. Many owners are now questioning whether they should hang on to these properties or sell before CT gets worse. Many are worried that if large companies leave like GE leave, it will impact again their properties. Connecticut has so many hidden and new taxes it has become a State I am not proud of living in nor operating a business. I once loved this State and now feel I am being forced out by poor government management of State funds and State employees. It just so much harder to exist as a resident of New Canaan, I am now seeing property values go down pretty quickly. I do believe this is fueled by the poor business environment and overall strength of the State. The State of Connecticut is portrayed in the media as a poorly run state, with many new taxes and business entities leaving by the day. Just drive around and you will see a business that was in a location for a long time now gone or an block of building where every building has a for lease sign out.

The State needs to follow the private sector as we practice excellent money management skills to keep our business afloat. Simple items like controlling costs and employee participation for retirement, medical coverages and wages that go in line with the job descriptions. Line by line analysis of where the money goes and what savings can be achieved is what is needed. We do that in the private sector why is that not possible with government spending. Current government has new vehicles, upscale offices and many other items that out-pace the private sector on our tax dollars. We are at a tipping point in Ct and we need to act now. We need to turn around this State immediately and work to save money at all levels!

Connecticut can be a great place to live again. We can feel good again as long as our State / local governments cooperate with business, be bi -partisan in ideas and think big picture, not short term for the future. Please I urge you to listen to the average citizen and practice common sense to improve this State NOW.

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