

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment

How many times are we as a County going to guarantee an airline company a million dollars in business? The Board of Supervisors is spending way too much time on a problem that has been created by a dwindling manufacturing base in Humboldt County. In the last twenty five years we have allowed the environmentalists and other non-growth members of our society to basically shut down major employers, while making sure new industries are met with major resistance. We lost several thousand good paying jobs when the environmentalists shut down Pacific Lumber Company and Eel River Sawmills. These same individuals made sure that the liquefied natural gas company didn't come to Humboldt Bay. This same ANTI crowd also slammed the door on the company who wanted to reopen the railroad and export gravel out of Humboldt County. During this same time period, we have allowed the government to buy up a majority of the prime real estate surrounding Humboldt Bay and the Loleta Bottoms. These government acquisitions have been a double hit to our economy. First of all, it has taken the future development off the table, which is a major job creator, and secondly it has taken the land off the property tax base. We have cut our own economic throat with this type of approach to land management. This has been the ANTI crowd's agenda from the beginning. Drive out the resource based industries; keep any new industries from setting up shop and taking prime real estate out of private ownership to government control. The other thing that has happened is that we have had a Planning Department that drags their feet on every project. The development of the Balloon Track is a

prime example of how the ANTI crowd does everything in their power to prevent growth in Humboldt County. This project alone would bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax revenue to Humboldt County and much needed jobs. I think the Board of Supervisors needs to implement a policy that building projects get approved in months, not years. We have many projects that get delayed for up to TEN years or more. This is absolutely the number one reason Humboldt County has a reputation of being ANTI business. The Board needs to eliminate the individuals in the Planning Department who are ANTI growth and hire people who realize their job is to promote construction and development of our land inventory. YES, some of the key players need to lose their jobs. I was involved in a simple three way split on a piece of property on Humboldt Hill. This very simple project took about FOUR years to get finalized. The Planning Department had us submitting blue prints for a warehouse we may or may not build on one of the three parcels. We had to submit a landscaping blue print complete with what type of vegetation we planned on planting around this phantom warehouse. Because of the Planning Department delays, this parcel of land sits undeveloped today. If the Board of Supervisors wants a new airline company to set up shop in McKinleyville, they need to streamline the permit process for construction. Work on creating a friendly business climate and the demand for flights will increase and that will bring a new airline company to Humboldt County. We need vibrant diversified businesses in Humboldt County and this will create the jobs that will create the demand for more flights.

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