

New Airlines

4/10/12

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment

Why is Humboldt County considering a guarantee of a million dollars in business to American Airlines? We already have access to every airport in the world from McKinleyville. There are numerous flights to San Francisco everyday. From San Francisco you can fly anywhere you want to go. Guaranteeing an airline company money through loans, tax incentives and guaranteed business is a path we've already tried. This path has resulted in unnecessary tax dollars being wasted. Do we really want to try this again? The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors needs to tackle the real problem; we have a dwindling manufacturing base. Instead of wasting tax dollars, how about taking inventory of every parcel of land that the government owns and offering that property to new businesses that might locate here. We could sell this property at a reduced price and give businesses tax incentives based on how many jobs are created. This would generate much needed revenue to our general fund and improve employment. This approach would help create jobs, increase tax revenue and Humboldt County would have less dependency on public sector jobs. An increase in non-government jobs will create a higher demand for flights. This higher demand will bring new airline companies to Humboldt County. It is very simple: If we had more industrial businesses in Humboldt County, we would have more air travel. Another major reason we don't have enough people flying out of here is that the existing airline companies are charging an astronomical price for the tickets. I know that I have driven to San Francisco or Sacramento on numerous occasions for flights because the San Francisco to McKinleyville

leg of the flight is too expensive. If we are dumb enough to give American Airlines our money, they better guarantee economical flights out of here. It is ridiculous to pay six hundred dollars to fly to San Francisco. How many businesses choose not to locate here because we don't have direct flights to Los Angeles? NONE! The reason businesses choose to locate elsewhere is because we've allowed the anti-growth members of our society to dictate government policy. Through unnecessary delays in the Planning Department to public protests, the ANTI crowd has made it known that Humboldt County is a community that does not welcome any new industry. Solve this problem and the lack of flights to LA will solve itself. The only business who will benefit from these proposed guarantees is American Airlines and they will only be here until the guarantees are gone. Fast forward two or three years and we will be facing the same exact situation we are facing today. We need our elected officials to spend their time and our public resources on developing our port, streamlining permits, eliminating anti-growth employees who hold key positions in our government and promoting Humboldt County to the rest of the world. We have so much to offer. We live in one of the most beautiful places in the United States. Our climate is very mild. We have a great work force and we have an abundance of vacant land that is economical. The Board of Supervisors needs to make personnel changes and hire people who would commit to getting building permits approved in six months, instead of six years or more, and then we would be well on our way to rebuilding our once great County, complete with direct flights to LA.

This has been Tom Cookman with a Community Comment