

Community Comment

Economic Development

It seems to be that most families assume that their children will likely leave Humboldt County in the future, often because of the lack of economic opportunity. It is sad to say that the biggest employer in Humboldt County is government. Local, State and Federal government in all that it does, employs more people and not only that it is expected to be the biggest growth segment over the next 4 years. Government is not a healthy foundation for a strong economy seeing that it has taken as it's primary role to redistribute income through it's many welfare programs to all levels of society.

The second biggest portion of our economy is illegal drugs. Drugs destroy our future despite this fact many legitimate businesses in Humboldt would have to close their doors without this money. *which further emphasizes our need for real economic development.*

Let's face it ↓ Our children need a better economic future to stay in Humboldt County. So what can we do to spur ^{this} ~~real economic~~ development. We must be active in our community. Active as voters who demand our elected officials and those whom they appoint or hire to reduce the regulations and hinderances to real economic development. Active as citizens who participate in County and City life through Supervisor and City Counsel meetings making our voice heard on every issue that might limit or penalize economic development. Active as consumers who realize the importance of strong local businesses and the value of paying more for the health our community. Active in working with our own children and the children of others to teach character and hard

work through doing meaningful things. Active in finding other individuals and families who are concerned for our children's future and begin thinking how you might start a business or participate in economic development.

There are many limits to a strong economy in Humboldt, limits in infrastructure, limits in redundancy, limits in developable land, but none of those limits stop us from having a strong economy. The most dangerous limits we face are those in the mindset of our society, educational institutions and families. We must regain an appreciation for hard work and remove ourselves from being dependent. We must no longer steal but work that we might have something to give to those in need. We must not look to the government to regulate tax or fine every business for the so called safety of our society and environment. We must see that men and women are not the enemies of the environment and deal with real science as the stewards of our children's future.

The road to a strong economy in Humboldt is long but there is Hope for Humboldt. This is Robert Upton for Community Comment.