

ECONOMY WON'T GET BETTER WITH REGRESSIVE TAX SYSTEM

The Chronicle, April 1, 2003
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In their recent 20th District Legislative report, Rep. Richard DeBolt and Rep. Gary Alexander indicated House Republicans hope to adopt reforms that will stimulate the economy and create 100,000 new private-sector jobs in the next three years.

That will not happen if our legislators continue to careen in 147 directions and ignore the regressive tax system that induced the Boeing Co. to move a significant segment of its organization to Chicago.

The economic, social and environmental problems afflicting our state society are the result of its regressive tax system that includes an up-side-down property tax and a postage stamp utility rate structure that forces property owners and business enterprises in town to pay for those problems to happen.

The cost of a utility service, electric, water, sewage treatment, etc., is a function of distance. The last homeowner at the end of a county road who pays the same rate for electricity as one in town next to a sub-station is subsidized by ratepayers in town.

The community investment in infrastructure, public services, schools, etc., is reflected in the price of land, which in a city such as Seattle may in the central commercial area exceed \$400 per square foot.

Common sense should indicate that investment should be recovered by a land tax to raise the revenue to pay for infrastructure repair, a new jail or school.

The Boeing Co. move and the closure of the Miller Brewery in Olympia are the result of this state's regressive tax system that also inhibits business enterprises to locate in Washington.

Albert Einstein once commented, "The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits." The present Olympia political scene is a dazzling example.
