



JOE COTTA

Passion for Liberty

With the economy and inflation continually impacting our daily lives, I thought I would take the opportunity to address business concerns by briefly identifying policy changes that could improve our state economy.

Make Washington a right-to-work state. This allows for voluntary union membership for every worker. In the 27 other states that have right-to-work policy, economic competitiveness improves, and fairness is promoted. Today, I received a headline stating that 1.3 million jobs have been created in right-to-work states, since the pandemic, while those without right-to-work laws, like Washington state, lost 1.1 million jobs. Right-to-work policies stimulate the economy by attracting more companies. The employees come, because they want the freedom to choose union involvement, and they even demonstrate higher incomes. https://www.realclearpolicy.com/articles/2022/09/02/ohio_jobs_head_for_right-to-work_states_851381.html

Legalize private workers compensation insurance – WA state runs its own insurance company and sets its own prices. We must buy it and there is no competition allowed. We are one of only 4 states that are subject to the state's monopoly. When the free market gets involved, insurance companies compete for our business. They must keep insurance cheap will ensuring a profit. How do they do this? Private companies have created safety training programs that reduce work-place injury and the need for extended rehabilitation, leading to cheaper insurance, and reduced costs to employers. They are incentivized to reduce workplace injury. How amazing... a win for everyone, just not for Washington residents.

Cut occupational licensing rules to allow more people to work - Occupational licenses for many jobs require excessive hours of training. Many of our standards for occupational licenses are drastically higher than many other states. The training requirement prevents people from taking advantage of job opportunities. Requirements can be lessened without compromise to health and safety. Most of us probably know someone training to be a journeyman or other profession that requires an occupational license. Many of them struggle to find steady work, because they cannot take advantage of available work without the license, further creating a backlog of work. Training hours require specific criteria and hours are not always available or require much travel to accommodate. We should review occupational license requirements and remove appropriate barriers. The barriers create a secondary impact to the costs on society, as projects cannot be completed. We can remove barriers to those with criminal records and recognize occupational licenses from other states to complete Washington State projects, which will stimulate the economy.

Allow a Youth Training Wage – High minimum wage discourages employment from the lesser skilled workforce, because employers need assurance of skill and capability at this high expense. Unfortunately, the lesser skilled go untrained and subsequently have trouble finding work. A youth training wage won't block job opportunities caused by high minimum wage and would allow our teen workers an opportunity to learn skills with less risk to employers that require higher skilled productivity at higher wages.

Require legislative approval for agency rule changes – Regulation gets worse every year, burdening our economy, and the agencies have taken the reins as the 4th tyrannical branch of unelected government. Let's restore legislative oversight back to the legislature and get approval for agency rule changes. We can't allow the continued replacement of lawmakers by agencies.

Let's Go Washington Initiatives – and don't forget our initiatives to **trim sales tax by 1%, Cut the state gas tax in half (24.7 cents/gal), create a property tax exemption of \$250K, and repeal the capital gains tax.**

There are many other policy changes that could radically improve our state economy. Please share this email, donate, volunteer, and encourage your friends to vote. Our future depends on your involvement.

Thank you!

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