

From Letters To The Editor: Two Steps To Fix Rhode Island

By Bruce Lang

Little Rhode Island is a great state. Here are just a few of the reasons: We're on the ocean; we're between the two great states of Massachusetts and Connecticut; we're a three- to four-hour drive from New York, arguably the most important city in the world; we have a terrific and easy-to-use state airport; we have tremendous ethnic and geographic diversity; we probably have more artists and more college students per capita than any other state; we have great beaches, restaurants and beauty; we are the birthplace of the industrial revolution and still have a lot of technical and industrial talent here; cities such as Providence and Newport are exciting and very interesting places to live, work and visit; and because we're so small, we could be managed easily.

But unfortunately, we now have some extremely serious economic problems, which could literally destroy our wonderful state. We have two primary problems. If they can be solved, we will be one of the best states, or maybe even the best.

We must reduce government spending and reduce taxes.

Granted, these are two very big challenges, but we can and must do it. High taxes are chasing people from Rhode Island and discouraging businesses from staying, growing or locating here.

Our 10.3-percent unemployment rate will continue to worsen unless we seriously deal with these two big problems.

Why do we need such high taxes? To feed the voracious and unsustainable monster of 40 different governments (the state plus 39 cities and towns) in only about 1,200 square miles.

Governor Carcieri and some of our mayors and legislators understand this. Now we must get the rest of our elected officials to truly grasp the severity of our situation and act accordingly, and as quickly as possible.

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