

Letters

Stop bad-mouthing Bristol

To the editor:
I wanted to make a comment about the recent CNN/Money Magazine announcement of the "Top 100 Best Small Cities To Live In," where Bristol ranked 84th. It's gotten quite some publicity and I am fired up about it.

I am disgusted with some of the comments in the newspapers and TV. I've lived in Bristol for over 15 years. Would I have picked

Bristol as one of the top 100 cities to live in? Probably not. We all want (to live) what we can't have. But I wouldn't go bad mouthing it either. I'm shocked, but proud, that it was selected to be one of the top 100 cities. There are some eye sores, but the town has been working really hard to beautify this city.

Every city has its good and its bad. People should be happy and do their part

to make Bristol a better place to live in instead of discrediting it.

Money Magazine said that "strong high school soccer and baseball teams have residents cheering all year long." I think that says a lot about the people in Bristol and the types of families we have living here. We are a supportive bunch.

**Wanda Delvalle
Bristol**

Show the Democrats out the door

To the editor:
Democrats have been falling all over themselves recently touting the latest budget "surplus" projections for fiscal year 2010-11. The "surplus" is approaching \$300 million according to State Comptroller Nancy Wyman (D).

Ah, but here is the rub. What everyone fails to mention is the nearly \$1 billion in new borrowing voted by the Democrat-controlled legislature to fill a huge gap between expenses and revenue that reared its ugly head during the budget preparation process.

"Surplus."
I don't think so, not by a long shot. By my calculation, taxpayers are still in the hole by approximately \$700 million. This analysis may be overly simplistic but I think I'm in the right church, if not the right pew.

What we have with this budget "surplus" headline, and others that will surely follow as time goes on, is a great example of how Democrats have gamed the system to try and look good for the November elections. I think the people of Bristol are far too smart to be fooled by this trickery. Come

November, they will send Frank Nicastro and his fellow Democrats packing.

People don't want tricks, games or smoke and mirrors. They want elected representatives who will address the state's problems in thoughtful, responsible ways, developing real solutions in the best interest of the people, not in the best interest of lobbyists and special interest groups. Enough is enough; it is time to show these folks the door.

**Pete Del Mastro
Republican candidate
79th District**

Legislator sends open letter to governor

State Rep. William A. Hamzy (R-Bristol, Plymouth) wrote the following letter to Gov. M. Jodi Rell and forwarded it to the Bristol Observer.

Dear Governor Rell:

It is with great resolve today that I ask you to withdraw Connecticut from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) agreement that was signed with ten other Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. As you know, it was agreed that member states would implement cap and trade policies to produce long-term financial and environmental rewards. States were to collect carbon taxes from energy plants, then use that money to invest in green technology, promote energy conservation and ultimately lower energy costs.

Recent published reports, however, revealed that many of our sister states have foregone the theoretical ideals of the RGGI agreement, which is proving RGGI critics' warnings true. Many of our neighbors are no longer using monies from carbon credits to fund more energy

alternatives for consumers. Instead, these states are using the money to balance their budgets and fund regular state operations.

At a time when state economies are struggling to state afloat, the carbon funds are a tempting tax for easy revenue. I am one who personally believes that there is no such thing as a "temporary tax." Once the state finds revenue through taxing energy sources, I fear it will never give up this revenue, regardless of what it ultimately funds. This is exactly what critics of RGGI feared; that RGGI would simply become one more tax paid by consumers in the form of higher energy prices, with no foreseeable lower costs on the horizon. RGGI was sold as a regional investment now, promising a minimum 2:1 return on investment paying consumers back through efficient cost effective technology and a cleaner environment. The 2:1 return on investment for some was too good to be true and for others it was the baited hook that sealed the deal.

Instead RGGI is now nothing more than a "bait and switch" on taxpayers as a means for northern states to fill their coffers. This program has already cost Connecticut taxpayers over \$36 million.

The RGGI ideal that we in Connecticut can't do this alone is true. But our sister states have already failed their end of the agreement and proven critics to be correct. The actions of these states hurt Connecticut residents. We have the highest energy costs in the continental U.S. and by staying in RGGI, they are only driven higher.

With RGGI reduced to merely another consumer energy tax which fuels bloated state budgets, I respectfully ask you to withdraw our state from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative agreement. Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to receiving your reply.

**William A. Hamzy
Deputy Minority
Leader**

Getting letters to the editor into the Bristol Observer

We invite readers to contribute letters to the editor. Please include a name and address for inclusion with the letter. Also, submit a telephone number where we can reach you so we can verify your letter.

We will not publish any

letters signed with pseudonyms or submitted anonymously. We also will not withhold the names of the author of a letter.

The editor and this newspaper reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and length, and to withhold let-

ters from publication that do not meet legal standards.

Our mailing address is 213 Spring St., Southington, CT 06489. Letters also may be e-mailed to mchaiken@BristolObserver.com, or faxed to (860)621-1841.

Deadline is Friday at 10 a.m. for the following week's paper. Submission of a letter prior to the deadline is no guarantee of its publication in the following week's issue.

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