



Manufacturing Inventory and Machine Tax Reduction

- Nearly all the money generated by the manufacturing inventory tax goes to county governments and public schools. This will mean the continued loss of money for our already struggling local governments and county school systems. That translates to less deputies on the road, less programs in our schools and less services provided by local governments.
- Repealing the business inventory tax means shifting the tax load onto working families and homeowners or making our communities less safe by threatening critical funding to public safety services both residents and business use. We need to support our police and fire departments, county sheriffs and prosecutors, not pull the rug out from under them.
- We have a choice. We can continue to cut taxes that benefit wealthy out-of-state corporations, or we can choose to invest that money in our communities. Investments in our schools will set our children on a path to success, investments in health care will keep people working, and investments in infrastructure – roads, bridges, water systems – will benefit our families and businesses.
- For the last decade, West Virginia has given hundreds of millions away in tax breaks to the well-connected and out-of-state corporations, but those tax cuts haven't strengthened our economy or led to new jobs. They have simply shifted the tax burden from corporations to private citizens. Instead of doubling down on a failed economic strategy, we could put that money into smart investments that help lay a foundation for an economy that works for all of us, not just the few.
- West Virginia already ranks better than most states in both business tax climate and in property tax rankings. The conservative Tax Foundation says that we have the 17th best property taxes for businesses in 2020.
- These corporate tax cuts won't guarantee new jobs, might kill the ones we have, and will jeopardize our ability to ensure a better future for the next generation, because they undermine some of the most effective ways to promote jobs and economic growth by taking much needed funds from our county schools.
- We all want good schools, police and fire protection, safe roads and bridges, clean water, and quality health care. Cutting more businesses taxes would deprive our communities of the revenue to pay for them.
- Businesses hire employees because there is consumer demand for their goods and services. They hire when an extra employee can help them make more money. Taxes are an insignificant factor in these hiring decisions, so giving corporations a tax cut won't create jobs or boost our economy. And when tax breaks for corporations are paid for by scaling back on things that businesses need, like good schools and roads, that's bad for the economy and bad for the citizens of our state.
- This is a continuation of the move to shift the tax burden from businesses to working-class West Virginian's under the guise of attracting business to our state. Since 2005, the state has reduced business taxes by nearly half a billion dollars (\$478 million) while increasing the taxes on citizens by \$331 in order to fill the gaps in the state budget. The promised jobs didn't materialize, and the state budget suffered. This tax reduction is more of the same.