



Letter to the editor

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009

Dear Editor,

A recent editorial was correct in pointing out Americans' anxiety over what is by all accounts a jobless economic recovery. Unfortunately, the simple and fundamental question of *why* job creation is lagging is increasingly overlooked by policymakers.

According to the PA Chamber's 19th Annual Economic Survey, hiring expectations (as well as investment and sales estimates) for the coming six months are the lowest in the history of the survey. Member companies tell us that a big reason behind the reluctance of business to spend and hire is uncertainty about future costs. Job creators are clearly holding back until they see the outcome of numerous policy debates at the state and federal levels – including health care, climate change, cap-and-trade and union card check – all of which could place detrimental cost burdens on the employer community and significantly impede job creators' ability to run their businesses.

But since too few are asking why jobs aren't being created, it's not surprising that none of the "solutions" supported in the editorial reflect what is most necessary: the continued ability of the private sector to effectively and efficiently operate.

What is alarming is the growing mindset that diminishes the role of free enterprise and touts more government jobs and government spending as the means to the prosperity all Americans desire, ignoring the fact that the money government spends is not free. It comes from the pockets of business and individual taxpayers or from borrowing against future generations.

Government can provide opportunities for job creation, but true and lasting prosperity can only come from letting the private sector create jobs. The more government ties the hands of innovative men and women on the front lines of job creation, the more fleeting the prospects for job creation and robust economic recovery will be.

Sincerely,

Gene Barr
Vice President, Government and Public Affairs
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry