



COMMENTARY

LETTERS

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educated and are generally employed in lower-paying jobs. Therefore, they have less to spend on discretionary goods and services.

My point is that there are real reasons for our economy to be in the doldrums, and it will stay there until we increase the purchasing power of a great many of our citizens. The excessive wealth of a few does not result in a proportional amount of demand.

So I believe that we would be far better off if the wealthy paid more taxes and that money was spent to subsidize the return of manufacturing jobs, on the creation of jobs repairing the roads and bridges that have been neglected for too long, to support technologies that will create jobs or reduce the "cost of living" (i.e., fuel-efficient small cars), etc.

We must increase the financial well-being of a great many people before we can even hope that they will create additional demand for goods and services that in turn would create jobs.

David Le Vine Avon

This dog (ERS) won't hunt

Regarding the Eagle River Station project in east Eagle, we have said it all before — same subject, same place, but a different time — only this time we are further south as an economy, both nationally and locally.

It is the same Leviathan, only wearing a different tutu. Through my older generation's eyes, I see the project as out of sync with the diminishing market for consumer goods (especially from places the likes of China). Four-five big boxes will not create jobs if there are fewer customers, fewer sales, and a diminishing population base.

However, I see an upside were the requested zoning to be granted — that being an increase in the value of the land owned by RED et al. This would inure to the county but not to the town of Eagle.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that this zoning-enhanced property would be sold to a foreign consortium of investors for the development phase. They have the money, they have the product, and they have the ignorance of the insolvent condition of the American economy. RED does not!

RED's marketing is directed to the younger generations rather than to mine. However, there is now less opportunity in the workplace (unemployment in the neighborhood of 20 percent in real numbers). There is less affluence in the younger generation of consumers than in mine (we tend to save and invest). And most of all, the ERS locale will become more isolated from the market than Eagle already is, what with the costs attributable to mobility and inflation. To put it in Cain's vernacular, this dog won't hunt.

RED's perseverance in pursuing the project may be commendable and understandable, considering the investment it already has in the matter. However, that does not change the spots on the leopard. It will remain Eagle's albatross.

Americans have always been for progress and growth, but there comes a time when that equates to diminishing returns, and we have to recognize that if we are going to survive, we simply do not have the market that fits within RED's stereotype of a "lifestyle."

I get the impression that the town is pushing this project in a fast and furious fashion. As running guns to Mexico by the feds does not work, fast-tracking ERS' interests in Eagle just

may have similar consequences.

Fredric Butler Eagle

Change I don't want

I'm more than a little concerned that RED Development is back seeking approval from the town for Eagle River Station. What part of the voters voting the project down a few years ago didn't they understand? To the average person like myself, the pictures still look the same, the buildings too tall, way too much acreage of beautiful hay fields, elk habitat and open space covered in concrete. No thanks.

In these current economic times, with no real improvement in sight, there is more than enough housing that is currently empty due to foreclosures, sluggish real estate market, etc., not to mention all that has been already approved and not built: Eagle Ranch and Adam's Rib, just to name a few. Why would we want to add more housing that will sit vacant for years to come?

As for big-box stores, what about all the vacant lots out near Costco for this type of development? Isn't that where it belongs if it belongs at all? How about all the small commercial spaces in downtown Eagle and on Eagle Ranch that sit empty just waiting for tenants? Small business is the heart of a community, not corporate big-box stores. Having lived in Eagle for 20 years, I've certainly seen many changes, but this is change that is not smart or right for our community. I would tell RED that until all of the retail areas downtown, Eagle Ranch and out near Costco are filled and thriving, ERS is just not right for Eagle now or in the foreseeable future.

Terri Gold

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