

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
THE MILLSTONES
AROUND OUR
NECK!

By Stephen L. Bakke  September 12, 2014



Here's what provoked me:


Sometimes we need to be reminded why we are where we are. In the case of the U.S. economy, there are some very good explanations for things. This became foremost in my mind last week when I was reading the latest jobs report and other updated economic data. As usual there were questions like: "Why is recovery so slow, especially considering the government programs that have been directed to that end?" So, I decided to gather up some of those good reasons and explanations for our predicament and "sent 'em in" to the editor!





Here's my response:


The Millstones Around Our Neck

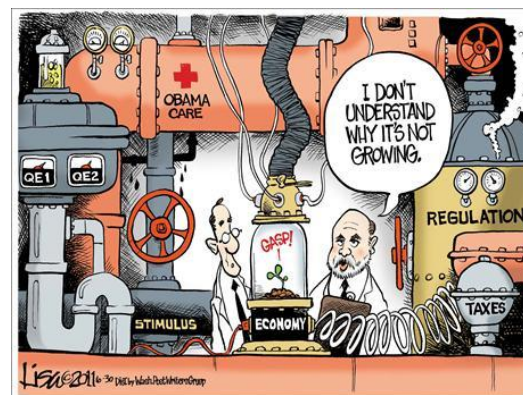
I read the latest jobs data and questions like: "Why is recovery so slow, especially considering the government programs that have been directed to that end?" I've listed programs, policies, legislation, presidential fiat, and just plain attitude, that are counterintuitive to those who understand motivation and economics:


 **Denial of American Exceptionalism** – A measure of economic buoyancy would be created if Obama expressed more positive and prideful comments.


 **Distorted role of government** – A "central planning" and "nanny state" mentality is stifling to the economy.


 **A philosophy of intervention** – Overzealous intervention leads to unintended consequences, and these are always negative.


 **ObamaCare** – A drag on economy and employment due to higher costs and from taxes on medical technology development, etc.





 **Regulatory “End Runs”** – These hamper innovation, job growth, and raise energy costs.

 **National debt** – Reducing the debt would help the economy, but aggressive suggestions to do so are met with accusations of racism.

 **Energy Policy** – Our national energy policy has mitigated a prospering petroleum industry and delayed the economic benefits of energy independence.

 **Extending unemployment benefits and minimum wage hikes** – While well intentioned, these can be bad for the intended beneficiaries and the economy.

 **Corporate tax reform** – This would be easy to do and would give the economy a big boost. The first priority is to eliminate double taxation of dividends and foreign earnings.

 **Promoting class warfare** – The politics of envy discourage the attitude that good fortune is the result of hard work.

We’ve got millstones for sure!