

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BALANCING THE BUDGET AND PAYING DOWN DEBT – IT’S NOT ALL ABOUT RAISING TAXES!



By Stephen L. Bakke  March 29, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

A guest opinion column in March made an attempt at tying responsible fiscal management to of our founders' expressed intent of maintaining the "full faith and credit" of the United States. That I agreed with. But as I read the title and then the entire article, this writer's comments appeared to be ideological, single minded and actually unrealistic. His preaching about balancing the budget and paying down debt is obviously accomplished by raising taxes significantly. Little more than "lip service" was given to a balanced approach that includes aggressive spending restraints.

Here's my response:

Balancing the budget and paying down debt – it's not ONLY about raising taxes.

In Gerald Petersen's opinion of March 22, "Founders knew they had to be funders, too," it's clear that his major path to responsible fiscal management is to balance the budget using primarily tax increases. While wanting to "review the entire government's operations ... to see where cuts might be feasible," it's mostly "lip-service" because his obvious preference is for taxes to be the primary solution. I believe he might say, yes we "**CAN**" raise taxes, and we "**MIGHT**" be able to cut expenditures eventually. His preference is obvious.

He is puzzled by the conservative "line in the sand" approach of insisting on budget cutting only. His point is well taken, but what would he expect the conservative reaction to be when there hasn't been a meaningful gesture by liberals to make real dollar cuts for decades. As the situation becomes worse, we face an ever growing federal budget, and suicidal levels of debt resulting from feeding those ballooning expenditures.

If liberals would set a firm goal to reduce expenditures by a meaningful amount, in the short term, they just might be surprised by the reaction of some "hard-cores" like me!