Supporting a WA capital gains tax

BY MARY ANN WARBEN, MELINDA TIGARD AND KENNETH ROGERS

We are community leaders in Yakima who have come together from different backgrounds united in the belief that Washington needs a fair tax code. As signers of an amendment in support of a capital gains tax that was put on the ballot last year by the State Legislature, we believe that the tax law is not only legal, but revenue from the capital gains tax is necessary for Eastern Washington to plan for the future, the health of our communities, and our economic prosperity.

Our state needs the capital gains tax because our tax system is not as fair as we write. We lead in so many sectors, like agriculture, technology, and tourism. Yet when it comes to how we collect taxes, we are dead last. In fact, Washington has been recognized for decades as having the most regressive tax code in the nation. Everyday working families pay 15.7% of their income, while the wealthiest Washingtonians pay less than 3%. Our tax code is just not working for those who make a living wage. By distinguishing the highest share of the middle-income families and businesses from the top and putting them in the same regressive brackets.

So, it’s not just a fact that those who do well in Washington make right by Washington and pay their fair share, but all those who have built wealth here have benefited from public investments and the tax code of our community, parks, health care systems, and bridges. The capital gains tax is a tool that helps support our tax code. First, by and large those who should pay more to contribute their share, our system will be more equitable.

It takes all of us to make sure that our state can continue to attract and retain the best and the brightest. The capital gains tax will put a brake on out-migration and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. By taxing capital gains in Washington, we will level the playing field for businesses and individual investors. This tax will help to ensure that our state remains competitive and continues to attract talent.

We know that our communities are healthier and more vibrant when people have access to quality health care and education. The capital gains tax will help to fund these vital services, ensuring that our children have the best possible start in life. By investing in education, we are investing in the future of our state.

We call on our lawmakers to pass the capital gains tax amendment because it is the right thing to do for our state and our communities. Let’s work together to create a fair and equitable tax system that benefits all of us.

GUEST OPINION

Does being a land of plenty make us a land of good?

BY LORNA RINEHART

The idea that being a land of plenty makes us a land of good is a common one. But is it true? And what does it mean for our society and our well-being?

First, let’s consider the concept of a land of plenty. Historically, this idea has been linked to economic prosperity and abundance. It suggests that if we have enough resources and wealth, we will naturally be kinder and more empathetic to one another. However, recent research has shown that this is not always the case.

Studies have found that countries with high levels of income inequality are more likely to have high rates of violence and crime. This suggests that having enough resources and wealth is not enough on its own to create a land of good.

Second, let’s consider the idea of being a land of good. This concept is often linked to values such as compassion, empathy, and generosity. But again, recent research has shown that this is not always the case. Even in countries with high levels of income equality, such as Norway and Switzerland, there are still high rates of poverty and inequality.

So, what does this mean for our society and our well-being? It suggests that we need to go beyond simply having enough resources and wealth. We need to focus on creating a society that is equitable, inclusive, and fair for all. This means addressing issues such as income inequality, education, and healthcare.

In conclusion, the idea that being a land of plenty makes us a land of good is a complex one. It is not simply a matter of having enough resources and wealth. We need to work towards creating a society that is equitable, inclusive, and fair for all.