

## **COMMENTARY**

### **Burlington**

**July, 2008**

"...If this state cares anything about the people and their community they'd look long and hard at what's happening here."

So said Denise Ogurkis of Vermont Tubbs. 100 jobs were recently lost as this company decided to leave Vermont ("Vermont Tubbs to close; 90 jobs cut," June 11) due to its "overhead costs at the Brandon facility [that] are much higher than they are at the Whitefield [New Hampshire] plant."

Land use, regulatory and tax reform are desperately needed to keep and grow business in Vermont. Given that over 75 percent of Vermont is farmed, forested or conserved, it's absurd to think that these necessary reforms would materially disrupt our "bucolic paradise." Al From, CEO of the Democratic Leadership Council said it best: "Growing the economy and creating jobs remain the best ways to fight poverty, and neither is possible with a cocoon around our economy." Vermont's private-sector job growth this past decade: 0 percent.

The vaporous dream-world that Vermont's cultural elites live in was demonstrated in Chris Graff's "Looking to the future of Vermont", June 18: "Residents young and old worry about lack of opportunities..." Seniors in Franklin County said, "It's not the cost of living; it's the cost of surviving." Mr. Graff, a member of the Council on the Future of Vermont later opines: "If people can live anywhere, they will live in the place that speaks to their heart. ...Our goal as a council is to identify steps to ensure that it always will."

To Mr. Graff, Paul Costello, et al, for now and for the foreseeable future, Vermonters would rather you speak to their stomachs. Leave their hearts to the poets.

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