

# Letters

## Thank You Mike Prete

We want to thank Michael Prete of The Kitchen Eatery & Catering for setting up his food truck in The Andover Community Hub parking lot on the 4th of July, for selling his excellent food there, and for donating all profits to The Hub and to the 4th of July Committee. We're very appreciative of his generosity and willingness to support the Andover community.

His truck's presence attracted folks to our parking lot, and then encouraged them to stop in at The Hub to find out what was going on and what we're all about. That was great for us and we hope it also helped him spread the word about this new restaurant and catering business in town, which some fairgoers may not have been acquainted with previously.

Thanks, Mike!

*The Board of Directors*  
The Andover Community Hub

## Response to Ken Wells' July Op-Ed

I read Ken Wells' report on the legislative session in Concord and was dismayed at his uncharitable comments about corporations. Corporations are organized under the law in order for groups of people to work together to achieve a common goal, whether that is construction of tangible products, providing services, or any of innumerable other endeavors. The people involved

**Y**our opinion matters! Please send a letter to the *Beacon* expressing your thoughts on any local matters. Our readers want and need to hear your voice!

with them are their employees, their owners or stockholders (if they are publicly traded), and their customers. Every one of those people that Ken ignores can be affected by increasing costs, including taxes, on them. Stockholders or owners may receive less return on their investments causing them to divest their holdings, employees may forgo raises or have their hours reduced, and customers may end up paying more for the product or service, or the quality or features may decline. All those people are paying these "corporate" taxes, usually with the customer picking up most of it. If the burden is high enough, smaller businesses may cease to operate.

Many people never realize that their retirement accounts (IRA's, pensions, 401(k)s and the like) with Fidelity, TIAA-CREF or T. Rowe Price, or the investments their pension plans make, make them stockholders. Hurting the bottom line of the corporations they are invested in hurts future retirement payouts.

The people involved with those corporations have every right to be heard as represented by the corporation, as their lives are directly affected by the conditions the corporations have to deal with. It's myopic to think that corporations somehow have no contact with human

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The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The *Beacon* reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.

# OPINIONS

## Ken Wells Reports from Concord

Ken Wells, NH Representative

A dear friend who is a chaplain introduced me to this poem: "Out of a great need we are all holding hands and climbing. Not loving is a letting go. Listen, the terrain around here is far too dangerous for that."

Since I became your sworn representative in the New Hampshire House, I have been impressed with the intelligence and the dedication of all 390 or so representatives who attend every session. That's not to say I agree with all of them. Some are dedicated to shrewdly representing their ideologies, and some are dedicated to representing their constituents. I hope to remain in the latter group.

We can be proud that the largest industry in New Hampshire after tourism is forestry, and that Andover, Danbury, and Salisbury are the number one producers of high-value forestry products and biomass wood chips in the entire state. I have worked conscientiously to represent the interests of the many people in our towns for whom forestry helps put food on their families' tables. "Dollars here" and "dollars there" are not of equal value to us. Money earned by selling local wood chips to generate electricity locally has much greater benefit than an equal dollar amount spent to buy goods and services, fuels and energy produced out-of-state, because local money can continue to cycle through our local economy several times. Forestry and wood chip money pays local loggers, landowners, and equipment operators who can spend those dollars

in local businesses, maintaining their equipment, improving their homes and supporting their families. When that money is spent locally a second or third time, it enriches our communities by building our community's wealth. Once money leaves the state, it is wealth that is lost to us.

Unavoidably, a portion of our money goes to taxes paid to our town and to our state. But in my vision of the proper role of government, all that money is spent to benefit the people and small businesses of our towns and state, building and improving our roads and schools, and protecting all of us from outside threats like the opioid crisis. Ideally, none of our wealth should leave our state in the pockets of out-of-state industries and corporations. There are those whose ideology says that we should hope that exported business wealth will "trickle down" to us, but let me ask you this: In the last twenty years, the stock market's Dow average has doubled, even tripled since the Great Recession. Has your income doubled or tripled over that same time period? Mine sure hasn't! Yet over the past few decades income inequality has grown, and a thriving class of billionaires and CEOs has grown with it. They spend huge sums on political organizations, producing TV shows and movies with embedded overt and subtle messaging, and buying up news media outlets. The next time you see or hear something that makes you mad, think for a moment. Do I do my clearest thinking when I am enraged? Why is someone trying to manipulate my opinion? Am I so worked up by this that I will repeat it without thinking it through?

Following a long-standing tradition, the New Hampshire House is in recess from the end of June until mid-August. The last order of business in the House was to grant a 30 day continuation of the current budget, so that all current state functions will continue to be funded until August. After that, state employees might be furloughed or required to work without pay.

At the beginning of July, the Governor vetoed several bills, including the total state budget passed by the House and Senate. Importantly, the vetoed budget included significant increases in state funding for our schools and more that \$60,000 of relief for Andover property taxpayers.

As to what happens next, there are two distinct possibilities. One, there could be a compromise among the  
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