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Former Governor Richard Lamm: Right on with Amazon!

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There isn't a word in former Governor Dick Lamm's recent editorial "*The case against using taxpayer money to lure Amazon*" that I disagree with. Not a word.

In our free market economy, nothing is more disruptive than having government politicians trip over each other to give taxpayer dollars to new companies to move to Colorado. Paid for by their competitor companies which they help put out of business.

The entire nation loves Colorado. Beautiful mountains, well-educated people, and not California. And we are at the top of the water-drinking food chain.

Paying companies to come here is tomfoolery, and the trick is on us. Former Governor Lamm is absolutely right: corporations play on the fears of government elected officials to doll out taxpayer subsidies in the hope of increasing future tax revenue. But the circle continues and tomorrow, another cities' politicians will outspend their neighbor to lure another company. It's a race to the bottom with no winners.

Five minutes after Colorado declares victory with Amazon, another company dangles a shiny bangle (Wal-mart, Google, UPS, Fed-Ex) and off we go spending future projected Amazon revenues for the next employer. A break for one, is the burden of another.

Dick Lamm hit the nail on the head: companies prefer Colorado and for lots of reasons – they already want to move here. He only left out one important attractive point: taxation. The lower the tax environment, for all employees, the higher the quality of life. The take home pay of workers is directly related to the myriad of imposed taxes and fees. Lower taxes and fees, and employees' disposable incomes will rise. It doesn't take an MBA to figure that out.

So stop with the corporate welfare. End the waste of money funding the Governor's countless Economic Development bureaucracies. Let's put the money into expanding our roads and improving our education, so new companies continue to come. On their own.

Let's open our doors to business.

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