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U.S. Government Doesn't Understand Small Business So Policies Cripple Growth and Job Creation According to Institute for Liberty President Andrew Langer.



Appearing on the nationally syndicated The Neal Asbury Show on WZAB-AM, Andrew Langer, President of the Institute for Liberty, an advocacy organization dedicated to "fighting the petty tyrannies of government and protecting America's right to be free," proposed that "there is a battle going on to save American small business." In fact, Langer is the author of a forthcoming book entitled "War on Small Business."

A long time fighter for small business, Langer contends that most government policy makers don't understand the fundamentals of small business and are destroying entrepreneurship with onerous regu-

lations. Part of the problem, according to Langer, is that most legislators lack a background in economics so they pass legislation like the Cap and Trade bill which will burden small businesses with additional costs that prevents the creation of new jobs.

Langer's group was one of the original supporters of the Tea Party Movement, that found some 600,000 disenfranchised citizens, many of them small business owners, rallying for change converging in Washington. One of the outgrowths of the movement, according to Langer, is that "individuals will be looking at political candidates based on their principles, not on their popularity."

Langer points to Texas Representative Louie "Gomer" Gohmert as a politician who understands the situation. Gohmert has proposed a year-long "tax holiday" whereby payroll taxes will no longer be taken out of payroll checks and employers will no longer be required to account for these taxes so they can spend the money in areas that will stimulate growth. While this plan comes with a hefty price tag (\$100 billion a

month), the feeling is that the money will be recouped through greater consumer and employer spending which will stimulate the economy and actually capture more tax income. Langer would like to see this plan take place immediately to give employees more money to spend for the holidays.

"Federal regulations cost small business \$1 trillion a year – right between the eyes. That translates into \$6600 per employee per year, which is slated to rise to \$7500 per employee per year. How can you grow a business with this burden? What business is going to do any hiring when they can't project how the economy will impact them," said Langer, who previously came to his present position from the National Federation of Independent Business, where he headed that organization's regulatory practice. He added that American businesses spend about 8.5 billion hours a year filling out regulatory paper work.



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The discussion also focused on the Copenhagen climate change conference which coincided with the interview. Langer, like many people, is concerned that the EPA will take control of the environmental bill, thereby neutralizing opinions that run counter to the Administration's policies. Langer suggested that this can be prevented by removing any regulations that cover CO2 emissions, which would make EPA involvement unnecessary. He suggested that "one of the great tragedies of the Bush administration is that they didn't un-sign the Kyoto Agreement, signed by Bill Clinton."

He points to a sample of over-regulation in regards to fly ash, which is created when coal is burned. There is a move to label fly ash as hazardous waste, although fly ash is recyclable and is used to form cinder block, drywall and a host of other products.

"I still remain hopeful about change. There are people getting involved in our causes and we have tools at our disposal for reversing some of the regulations that are keeping small business from thriving," said Langer, who invited listeners to get involved by visiting his site at www.instituteforliberty.org.

Also joining in the discussion and making a return appearance on The Neal Asbury Show, was Bill Johnson, Port Director at the Port of Miami. Johnson has more than twenty-eight years of management experience with Miami-Dade County government and has served as Port Director since June 2007.

"Our ports are the lifeblood of the country's economy. You can't overstate the importance of the maritime industry in this country, which with 14 ports, generates \$90 billion a year to the U.S. economy," said Johnson, who during his tenure has directed the Port of Miami to significant growth, from record level of cruise traffic with approximately 4.1 million passengers to newly executed cargo contracts that have, and will continue to strengthen the Port's financial position as a major economic engine.

Johnson is particularly pleased that more than \$1 billion in federal infrastructure funds is being allocated to the Port of Miami over the next five years, which will coincide with the \$5.4 billion allocated to expand the Panama Canal and increase the depth of the canal to 50 feet, which will allow larger ships to pass through. The Port of Miami will also increase

the depth of the port to 50 feet. "We hope to double the cargo activity at the Port of Miami by 2020, giving us a big competitive advantage. We contribute \$18 billion to the US economy and employ 180,000 workers, many of whom do not have diplomas but are still receiving the highest wages in the cargo/container industry," said Johnson.

Johnson notes that 60-65 percent of the goods that come through the Port of Miami are consumed in Florida by about 6 million residents. Another 1 million containers leave the port on rails destined for cities such as Chicago and Cleveland. Johnson regards rail traffic as a critical piece of commerce since it is cost effective and environmentally friendly.

While Johnson admits that port traffic is down by 2.6 percent this year, he expects an uptick next year as consumer spending increases, necessitating more goods moving through the port.



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"We need to keep pace with the world economy, and with this new investment spending, greater security and better technology, our logistical capabilities will give us a global competitive advantage," added Johnson.

John Manzella, President of Manzella Trade Communications and a world-recognized author and speaker on U.S. and global business and Washington politics, joined the discussion as he does each week with his Manzella Report. Picking up on the previous discussion on the Copenhagen climate change conference, Manzella found it ironic that "Some 110 heads of state are gathering in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the climate change conference, and are arriving in 1,200 limos and 140 private jets. It's not a climate conference...it's an EGO conference!"

Manzella contended that the U.S. needs to stimulate a new mindset in Congress and cut payroll and other taxes to stimulate real job growth. He had hoped that President Obama's speech in early December at the Brookings Institute would lay out some concrete plans for revitalizing small business, but was disappointed in the three major steps

outlined to help small businesses grow: (1) Eliminate capital gains taxes on new investment in small business, (2) extend enhanced expensing for small businesses that is scheduled to expire this year, (3) waive SBA fees.

"When you consider that 27 million American small businesses create the vast majority of all new jobs, President Obama doesn't get it when a Job Summit he held prior to the Brookings Institute speech was really a "code for a public relations stunt designed to figure out how to give political friends more pork. His policies are keeping unemployment rates high," said Manzella, who proposed that "President Obama's policies and speeches create uncertainty and will only result in higher healthcare costs, a significant energy tax, higher income tax rates, higher corporate tax rates, higher capital gains rates, higher death tax rates, and higher capital gains tax rates."

Manzella is concerned that while the unemployment rate was 10% in November, down from 10.2% in October, it's projected to remain in the 6.8-7.5% range through 2012, according to the Federal Reserve. That's an unemployment rate that hasn't been seen since April, 1983

when it was 10.2% or in May and June of 1983 when it hits 10.1%.

"I think the Wall Street Journal, when discussing the TARP money, said it best: If at first stimulus doesn't succeed, spend, spend again," concluded Manzella.

The Neal Asbury Show tackles free trade and enterprise issues every Friday from 5:00 PM until 6:00 PM on WZAB-AM 880 and is co-hosted by Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience. The show is streamed live on line at WWW.880THEBIZ.COM, which is affiliated with Bloomberg Radio and CNBC, and can be heard nationally on 920-WGKA (Atlanta); KSEV (Houston); 1500 AM (Washington D.C.); 1220-KDOW (San Francisco); and 1300-KKOL (Seattle).



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