

welfare cycle. Yet these counties continue to be the ones who pay for increased welfare cost.

No county should be penalized because of a federal program into which a particular state opted in. To fund the federal / state welfare partnership county by county through property tax just does not make sense.

Since 1960 Lake County has lost over 70,000 high paying steel worker jobs. Right now only one steel mill in Lake County is American owned. The basic steel industry in the United States was devastated by foreign competition.

The Boston Tea Party took place in December 1773. The reason was due to the continuous demand by the British Government for taxes without representation. I have written numerous articles that it may be time for us to reenact the Boston Tea Party on Lake Michigan.

I am seeking your assistance for the taxpayers in many counties in Indiana. Welfare is a very serious negative taxing system, which is unconstitutional and morally illegal. The Federal Government established and originally was responsible for the welfare tax then it allowed states to take over and supervise the welfare of their state.

In 1909 Congress amended the tax system under the 16th Amendment. This amendment disallowed any tax to be charged unequal from state to state or county to county such as the current welfare tax is applied in Indiana. Yet under the current welfare tax system in Indiana the Federal and State Government ignore the 16th Amendment.

Counties have no control of the current welfare policy they only have to fund this system at the county level, which is totally unconstitutional.

Unemployment (welfare cost) is a national concern not just individual county concern. It must be addressed and financed on the national level, which brings the most equal tax representation and fairest cost to all American taxpayers. Welfare cost is approximately 45% to 50% of county budget. If the Federal Government addressed this on a national level Lake County would be in great financial shape, and be able to compete for manufacturing and high-tech companies due to our national resources.

Gerry J. Scheub, President
Lake County Board of Commissioners