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**In Case You Missed It: “Thousands of Nevadans Already Benefiting from Tax Cuts”**

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[**Thousands of Nevadans already benefiting from tax cuts**](http://www.rgj.com/story/opinion/voices/2018/03/01/thousands-nevadans-already-benefiting-tax-cuts-heller/386226002/)

*By Sen. Dean Heller*

Make no mistake about it, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is working for the people of Nevada.

The legislation’s opponents, however, continue to attempt to lead the American public to believe otherwise. For example, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi equated the legislation to “Armageddon” and said it was the “the worst bill in the history of the United States Congress.”

But facts are facts. It’s been just over two months since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act became law, and already more than 350 companies, including many that employ thousands of Nevadans, announced they will be giving their workers bonuses, pay raises, or enhanced benefits as a direct result of the new law. For example, South Point Hotel Casino & Spa doubled its 2,300 full-time workers’ bonuses and Nevadans working for American Airlines, AT&T, JetBlue, Sinclair Broadcasting Group, Southwest Airlines, and Wells Fargo are expected to receive a special $1,000 bonus. Additionally, around 8,700 Nevadans who work for Wal-Mart will benefit from its pledge to increase wages, hand out bonuses, and expand maternity and parental leave benefits.

And in rural Nevada, Prospector Hotel & Gambling Hall in Ely recently gave its employees a $500 bonus and raised its starting wages to $12 per hour because of changes in the tax code.

During a recent TeleForum with NFIB/Nevada, roughly 9 in 10 Nevada business owners said they plan to take action that includes increasing workers’ wages and investing in their companies. However, not only are Nevadans already benefiting from bonuses and raises, Nevada’s job creators are hiring. Tax reform spurred developers for the once-stalled Fontainebleau, an uncompleted resort in Las Vegas, to resume construction. The project is expected to create about 10,000 new jobs in southern Nevada.

Several of these companies are also pledging to put more of their capital back into our country rather than overseas. Apple Inc., which recently broke ground on a new facility in Reno, announced it would create 20,000 new jobs nationwide, open a new campus, and directly contribute $350 billion to the U.S. economy over the next five years.

The tangible, positive implications of this new law for Nevadans could not come at a better time. For the past eight years, our country has suffered from sluggish wages and anemic economic growth. In fact, during the eight years of the Obama Administration, we did not have a single year in which the economy grew by more than three percent. Furthermore, Nevadans are more likely to be living paycheck to paycheck that Americans living almost anywhere else, real median household income is down $7,000 from 10 years ago, and childcare and housing costs have skyrocketed.

Whether it’s the single mother from Gardnerville who doesn’t receive child support and works full-time, or Andrew in Las Vegas who worries about how he’ll be able to afford daycare for his daughters next year, Nevada families have been struggling to cover their expenses.

That is why unlike Nancy Pelosi, I would not consider these bonuses and pay increases to be “crumbs.” A one-time bonus of $1,000 can go a long way toward helping a middle-income family in Nevada pay for groceries, save for their child’s education, or help prepare for an unexpected emergency. This is particularly true in light of reports that more than half of Americans have less than $1,000 in their banking accounts, and approximately 4 in 10 have no savings at all.

As the son of an auto mechanic and school cook, I grew up watching my parents work hard to provide me and my brothers and sisters a good life. Too often, though, I hear that Nevadans feel like they’ll never get ahead and that the American dream is out of reach. That’s why I not only helped write and pass this legislation, I fought to send it to the President’s desk because it gives Nevadans the relief they desperately need.

While recent announcements of higher wages and bonuses are a positive sign of the Tax Cuts and Job Act’s benefits to come, this is just the start. This month, Nevadans’ paychecks should be bigger because employers were required implement our bill’s new withholding tables by mid-February. In fact, under the new tax bill, every income category of Nevada’s roughly 1.4 million individual tax return filers is expected to receive a tax cut.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has put our state and country on the right track to economic prosperity, and I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings for Nevada’s families and workers.

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