

Banks are not lending and our nation is in trouble.

There is huge disconnect amongst government agencies, the FDIC, and the public.

Segregated disenfranchised communities unfortunately, have inherited the geographical Red Lining of the past and continue enduring the current discriminatory reality of where they reside and continue facing the same discriminatory lending practices throughout our communities and around our nation.

I live in Unincorporated East Los Angeles, California, a geographically area that historically documents one of the firsts examples of gerrymandering that took place in the U.S.

Those of us who know first hand or who know someone such as a great grandparent, grandparent, father, mother, friend, or fellow resident who has or is experiencing discrimination has personal knowledge of how people have been mistreated.

Predatory lending continues to plague our communities and is running rapid across our nation and the globe. Having knowledge of the lending institutions that have wronged us well, the descendants and those who have awareness of their predatory past will not trust them.

Alternative lending source must be introduced in order to ensure that capital reaches our communities.

Wall streets financial institutions have profited at the expense of the public and at the expense of our state and our nation.

Attempting to bridge the gap without recognizing the reality of our communities and by only looking at the economic crises through the aspect of financial institutions (A Top Down Approach) without integrating the concept of community and self-sustainability within a local, regional, national, and global context as a society how then will we confront the current recession and prepares ourselves to face the upcoming challenges ahead.

The debt our government has accumulated is based on the mismanagement of our local, state and national government. We function within an economic system of self-cannibalism that does so at the expense of slaves, the poor, the working class, the middle class, and the unforeseen capital of future generations.

The financial corruption that is taking place with Bonds is unsustainable. Non-voter approved bonds results in higher interest rates and has created an unregulated area of government with unscrupulous private public partnerships that restricts public access to financial information. Furthermore, public private partnerships have led to closed-door non-bid contracts that engage in the bad business of Change Orders and Unregulated Spending.

The investment portfolio of bonds should be held for public review before they are approved and stricter oversight must be introduced to ensure that these bonds are not sold before they have fully matured. Furthermore we need more transparency when it comes to the bond brokers.

In addition, non-profit organizations can play a very negative role, as they do not disclose who their private donors are and they to have taken advantage of our communities and the public purse. International Corporations or Special Interests can hide under the cloak of Non-profits status and extract local, state, and federal resources.

We must create a more comprehensive approach when dealing with legislation that has negatively impacted business. We passed legislation known as the California's AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 to develop regulations to reduce green house gas emissions. As a member of the Sierra Club I lobbied for this legislation that in theory when read seemed great. In theory the law reads great but in practice it has failed.

Unfortunately, the theory when put into practice had a devastating impact on families and businesses throughout our state. When government creates laws that will drastically change business government must allow the public a significant amount of time to make the transition to comply with the new law. In theory a system was set up to assist business with the transition by providing resources to them. What in theory was supposed to happen did not take place. Thousands of small businesses have been denied access to these resources time, after time, after time. Minority owned businesses were significantly negatively impacted do to the misapplication of the resources that were intended to be for their businesses.

Furthermore, the California Air Resource Board is currently out of compliance with California state law AB 1807. Mary D. Nichols, Chair, of the California Air Resource Board has failed to uphold this law and continues to violate this law by not implementing it. In addition, Mary D. Nichols, Chair, of the California Air Resource Board withheld information from the California Air Resources Board, the California State Legislature, and the public at large regarding Hein Tran, who misrepresented his Credentials and made false claims of being a Ph.D.

Why is this important?

As I wrote in theory the law reads great but in practice it has failed.

Financial resources that were supposed to go to businesses in order for them to upgrade or purchase new equipment that complied with the new standards were not distributed to them. Another major failure of this legislation is that it left business decisions in the hands of environmental agencies and these agencies are not experts in the field of business.

The resources were distributed to large corporations one which includes a billionaire others were given to millionaires who are not from California.

Californians funds went to corporations outside of our state. Our state also lost money for these corporations are registered out of state. Not only did our local businesses loose out on these funds so is everyone else who is connected to them in one-way or another. Local banks, insurance companies, mechanics, distributors, employees, etc. etc.

Our local, state, and federal agencies also lost out. Our state is in a financial crises, and now the equipment we need to clean our streets, build our infrastructure, our roads, highways, electrical grid, sewer systems, dams, buildings, agricultural industry and dairy farms, manufactures companies, and so on and so on have had their equipment, machinery, or vehicles banned. The hard workingmen and women who do the work have lost their jobs because the business went under or they have been layed-off so that the company can pay for the replacement or the upgrades to the equipment, machinery, or heavy-duty drayage vehicles.

The devastation to our families and our state could have been avoided if the Petroleum Industry would be regulated and forced to improve their fuel standards. Today we use "Hot Fuel" which basically means we burn at 100% however, we only get 60% capacity from our fuel. It was believed that cleaner burning fuel was the answer for reducing emissions. However, that is no longer the case for when you factor in the results of removing the sulfur content from fuel in order, to gain emissions reductions you also loose a very significant element lubrication. The loss of lubrication leads to the formation of carbon deposits, these deposits will in turn damage your equipment, machinery and engines.

The Petroleum Industry wins for they water down the fuel and sell more to us. The manufacturer of vehicles, equipment, and machinery, wins for we the public will purchase or replace the damaged or new equipment.

In California we have older model trucks that have lower emissions standards than the newer trucks or trucks that have been upgraded with retrofits. Although, the older trucks comply with the emissions standards they are still banned from being allowed to enter the ports and rails in California. Why? For only the manufacture can apply for the certification of the equipment, machinery, or vehicles. Even though the manufacture and the California Resources Board and the Air Quality Management District know that some equipment, machinery and vehicles can meet the emissions standards the manufacturer will not apply for the certification because they want the consumer to by their upgraded retrofit equipment or newer vehicle. The consumer is at the mercy of the manufacturer and instead of government holding the manufacturer accountable they have turned their backs on the public in favor of big business.

The retrofit program is a scam and the Green Truck Program is nothing more than a government sanctioned Ponzi- Scheme that allows the Front Runners (Large Corporate

Freight Carriers sole access to the grant money). What the public may not know is that at our ports and rails taxes are being imposed on truckers in order to pay for the Green Truck Program. Yet small mom and pop companies especially the minority owned companies have to pay to into the Green Truck Program but never receive a penny of that grant money. Therefore, the larger carrier will have a monopoly on this business. This in turn will impact trade and commerce.

In addition, the concession agreements are unconstitutional and as the battle going on in the courtroom continues families and small businesses continue suffering. The Green Truck program is administered by the California Air resource Board, (CARB) and the Air Quality Management District (AQMD). An independent audit of CARB and the AQMD should be conducted.

Why?

Polluter fees are being collected. One of the many polluter fees being collected is known as the vehicle license fee or VLF. These fees are not being reinvested into the communities there supposed to. State law requires that these fees be go back into the zip code especially to pay for the infrastructure as well as to mitigate the negative effects of pollution. Well the disenfranchised community of Unincorporated East Los Angeles has not received its share of these fees. Across our state these fees are being misappropriated and CARB and AQMD manages them. These fees are also are also being used in the Green Truck Program and Californians polluter fees have left the state.

The FDIC has to create regulations that coincide with the legislation being imposed on small business. Banned equipment, machinery, and vehicles should not be financed period.

The remaining debt of the equipment, machinery, and vehicles must be settled and the government must intervene in order to bail out consumers with this matter.

California and our country have lost on this deal. For the equipment, machinery, and heavy drayage vehicles are not manufactured in our state. The manufacture of these items, are international corporations who are set up over seas.

This is very troubling for the self-sustainability of our state and the nation is at hand. Our infrastructure relies on this equipment, machinery and vehicles. Another significant sector being impacted by these regulations is the agricultural industry and dairy farms.

Our most precious resource is threatened. Small organic farms cannot comply with the upgrades so larger factory farms will take them over. Factory farms use Genetically Modified Organism (GMO'S), herbicides, pesticides, and these elements contaminate our soil, aquifers, and drift carries elements through our atmosphere that endangers our health

and neighboring crops and soil. These factors also negatively impact the hydrological system.

Furthermore, GMO produce is of less nutritional value and will lead to a more malnourished society and will lead to the increase of obesity. Not only will this lead to an increase in health spending it also poses a significant national security threat.

What all this also means is that every state has to balance its budget and as we attempt to pay our bond obligations every dollar counts. We are in, an economic crises our hospitals and local clinics are being closed. Firemen and women, teachers, and public employees, are getting pink slips and others have been forced to take furloughs.

Wall street was bailed out as they gambled with public money placing unregulated side bets. Well I believe the bets should be placed on the hard workingmen and women who run small businesses, which are the backbone of this country.

Where is the bailout for small businesses during this economic crises? A temporary moratorium on credit score criteria should be introduced. Lending institutions should be allowed to place their bets on small business owners that have a proven business history. If you have been in business for years there is no reason why lending institutions should fear lending to small businesses.

The lending criteria in disenfranchised communities must be reevaluated in order to ensure that all public and private lending opportunities are accessible to members of our community. Government agencies such as the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Department of Labor have to do a better job of educating and training their employees on how the various agencies programs operate and what services they provided. If the Community Reinvestment Act truly wishes to meet its expectations then a more integrated approach has to be considered. A community asset and deficit map must be created. Local historians must be brought in to educate lenders on the social historical past of the regional area they are working in. The self-sustainability of our communities must be protected in order to ensure the long-term success of integration and nondiscriminatory business practices by lenders. Bank deposits should be reinvested in the local community. If lending institutions fail to reinvest in the communities then sanctions should be placed on them. Furthermore, the licensing and CRA certifications of these lending institutions that fail to comply with the lending and investment policies should be suspended from operation. New criteria then must be created in order for them to regain their license and accreditation.

Sincerely

Sofia G. Quinones

<http://transportation.house.gov/hearings/hearingDetail.aspx?NewsID=1161>