

The Berkshire Eagle

Letter: Sanders alone is a middle-class advocate

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To the editor:

The Sunday, Jan. 10, Eagle editorial "Sanders' anger more righteous than Trump's" was superb. Bernie is a great choice for our country and a divisive world. Some may question his potential on an international stage but foreign policy hasn't been strong with any recent previous presidents at the beginning of their terms.

A major issue of our era is the vanishing middle class and wealth inequity. Last summer, Kraft Foods merged with Heinz — 2,500 jobs have been terminated since then. An architect creating the merger was Warren Buffet, a well-known billionaire who supports the Clintons.

The Glass-Steagall Act was repealed in 1998 by the last Clinton administration. This deregulation of the banking industry directly influenced the Great Recession of 2008. It had a big affect on working people. The principles were well-off 1 percenters, who continue to profit from the debacle.

"... the federal government continues to subsidize some of the biggest companies in America. Boeing, Xerox, IBM, Motorola, Dow Chemical, General Electric, and others have received millions in taxpayer-funded benefits through programs like the Advanced Technology Program and the Export-Import Bank. In addition, the federal crop subsidy programs continue to fund the wealthiest farmers." This quote is from the CATO institute. Corporations don't pay a fair share of taxes but they reap socialist benefits.

One of the above-named companies, receiving enormous subsidies from the U.S. government, left Berkshire County, taking many jobs. The new mayor of Pittsfield recognizes boosting the city's economy is an important task. The role of small business and job creation is a big part of her plan.

There is only one major candidate who favors bolstering the middle class and keeping jobs in the states. Bernie opposed the TPP and NAFTA. He's ready to lead the fight for a fair economy. "A nation will not survive morally or economically when so few have so much while so many have so little," said Bernie Sanders.