

EDITORIALS

Wednesday November 17, 2010

West Virginia should eliminate disincentives

Clunky regulatory burdens only add to the malaise affecting the economy

The Cato Institute gave former Gov. Joe Manchin an "A" for fiscal policy, citing in particular:

"Beginning this year, West Virginia businesses will no longer have to renew their business licenses routinely, which will save them money and eliminate about 100,000 government filings each year."

Along the same lines, the state is pursuing a streamlined approach to dealing with commercial vehicles.

Drivers now have to go to the Division of Motor

Vehicles in Kanawha City and the Division of Highways at the Capitol to get licenses, pay taxes and fees, and get approval to drive on rural roads.

In some other states, commercial vehicle drivers can go to a central office to do all that.

Jan Vineyard, president of the West Virginia Trucking Association, said allowing companies to pay on a quarterly or annual basis would also help.

The state depends on its private sector. It has much to gain economically by systematically identifying and correcting such problems.

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