



Cato report misses state's positives

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A recent report by the Cato Institute, a Washington think tank that was editorialized by the Free Press (Oct. 10), ignores relevant context that helps make Tennessee, according to Barron's, one of the three of the most well-run states in the nation.

During the past two years, Gov. Bill Haslam has lowered the Hall tax on dividends, the grocery tax, and the inheritance and gift taxes are in the process of being eliminated.

Tennessee has the lowest debt per capita and one of the lowest tax burdens in the U.S. Credit ratings agencies give Tennessee the highest grades, and the Rainy Day Fund has grown more than 38 percent during the governor's time in office.

The report compares estimated numbers to actual spending to create a dubious growth percentage when our overall state budget has decreased. In addition, while other states have cut education funding, the governor continues to invest in education because he believes well-educated citizens are critical to our state's future.

Gov. Haslam is data-driven. He is focused on making Tennessee the best managed state in the country, and his conservative fiscal policies have us well on the way to achieving that goal.