

that didn't need them at all, places where prosperity already was. Bezos, you're worth 130 billion. Take one for the team. Stop playing cities off against one another and help a dying one come back to life."

During the Sandoval administration, Nevada gained a worldwide reputation as a soft touch for mammoth corporations—and also for corporate welfare that does not come through.

The London Guardian has reported, "Cities around the so-called Gigafactory in northern Nevada lined up to reap the [Tesla] bonanza. No longer dusty, provincial versions of Las Vegas, these municipalities would become innovative makers of lithium-ion batteries for electric cars and partners in Elon Musk's vision of a clean-energy revolution. That was the pitch. These days, many residents in Sparks—a sunbaked, low-rise city of 100,000 people located 20 miles from the factory—express humbler dreams: food, shelter, health care."

Sandoval, and now Sisolak, did not have to deal with the effects of corporate welfare. They lure the corporations. Local governments are then saddled with the costs—housing shortages, drains on school district budgets. According to state figures, in fiscal year 2017, various tax breaks drained off \$4 million from Washoe County revenues and

\$9.5 million from Washoe County School District revenues.

In addition, the failure of the benefiting corporations to pay their taxes—while donating occasional grants—has forced local governments to seek replacement income for basic services like roads and schools. The Washoe County School District turned to voters for a \$781 million sales tax hike in 2016—not exactly the "without sacrificing education" Sisolak spoke of.

Everyday citizens get angry over tax hikes, but the giveaways that necessitate those increases don't seem to bother them, if they have jobs.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy has reported, "There is broad consensus among academic economists that these programs are wasteful at best and actively damaging to a state's economy at worst. In addition, they encourage cronyism and corruption by creating high stakes for the winners and losers of such policies." The Center is promoting an interstate mutual disarmament pact with which states would forswear competitions against each other. □

**"Independent is the critical word."**

**Stuart Skalka**  
Financial analyst

For more on corporate welfare, see [www.goodjobsfirst.org/tags/corporate-subsidies](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/tags/corporate-subsidies) and [www.nevadalabor.com/cop/welfare.html](http://www.nevadalabor.com/cop/welfare.html)

## Going up



The first floor of Deco, a 10-floor apartment building being plopped on top of the downtown Sparks municipal parking garage on C Street, is nearly in place. The \$40 million project began in May 2018 and is expected to take two years to complete.

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