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Report: Utah is second best pro-business state

By Mike Gorrell
The Salt Lake Tribune

Updated Aug 10, 2010 11:22PM

For the second year in a row, a corporate relocation expert has ranked Utah as the second best pro-business state.

Chicago-based Ronald Pollina, whose annual Corporate Top 10 study evaluates job retention and creation by the 50 states and federal government, praised Utah as a state that serves as a model for the rest of the country.

Utah finished second to Virginia in the 2010 study, just as it did last year, followed by Wyoming, South Carolina and North Carolina. Rounding the top 10 are Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, Alabama and Missouri. California finished last for the seventh year.

The study uses 31 factors to rank states, including taxes, human resources, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, workers compensation laws and state economic development efforts.

"The effort to make America more business-friendly must come from all levels of government," Pollina said in a news release. "Many states are doing such a poor job of creating a pro-business environment that they can't even come close to competing with each other, much less compete globally."

Utah, by contrast, "is a state with political leadership that understands the challenge of global competition and has developed and implemented plans to meet that challenge," added Brent Pollina, the company's vice president and author of the 2010 report.

Spencer Eccles, executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, said the report helps cement Utah's reputation as a "premier business destination."

"Businesses around the world look closely at this report to decide where they want to relocate and expand. And more than ever businesses — like Adobe, Twitter and eBay — are choosing Utah," he said, citing three companies that recently announced plans to expand in Utah.

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Salt Lake Tribune


Aug 11, 2010 02:34 pm:

 **iamDerChabs says:** +0 -0

Pro business = Right to FIRE, low cost for labor (miniumum wage slaves) and unorganized workforce (lack of Unions).

Yup, I think that describes Utah. This all gives these huge corporations a small % boost for their margins. Aren't we lucky?

Aug 11, 2010 02:18 pm:

 **bob in petaluma says:** +0 -0

Utah bribes a lot of people, Goldman Sachs for example.


Utah's politics are all bribe, anytime any reason, it is simple to do.

That makes Utah business friendly, hah.

It is what is not said below that reflects the truth above:


Utah, by contrast, "is a state with political leadership that understands the challenge of global competition and has developed and implemented plans to meet that challenge.

Aug 11, 2010 08:36 am:

 **Emmanuel Goldstein says:** +2 -0


If Utah's the second most business-friendly state, it must be the second least worker-friendly one. "Right-to-work" = "right-to-be-fired -without-cause."

Aug 10, 2010 10:07 pm:

 **CAL UTE FAN says:** +0 -1


No, don't tell me that California was dead last. Can't be. California has been working its butt off to bring in cheap labor that no one else will do. Ya, and Obleama is going to save the state because it is to big to fail. This must be a Mormon attempt to save evil capitalism.

Aug 10, 2010 04:39 pm:

 **jared25 says:** +1 -1


What business makes choices based on taxes.. that can't be right

Aug 10, 2010 10:10 pm:

 **CAL UTE FAN says:** +0 -1

Your humor is lost on those that graduated in Gender Studies.

Aug 11, 2010 07:04 am:

 **mikeyyP says:** +3 -0

When it comes to business, its all about the taxes and how NOT to pay them. The three companies mentioned in this article all had their hands out for tax breaks, and they got them. Don't you know? Taxes are only paid by the little people (you and me).

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