



Quarry promises economic boost

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By **JEFF BRADLEY**

I and thousands of workers who once earned a good living in construction are unexpectedly unemployed and caught in a downward financial spiral.

My family and I moved here because of the promise of great schools for my son and in the hope that I would be rehired by Granite Construction after working 4½ years for the company.

My family trusts Granite. We know the California-based company has a proven record of good working conditions along with fair pay and benefits.

My hope for a new job at the proposed Liberty Quarry has been dampened by misplaced opposition to this important project.

As my family ekes by on what work I can find, we hope for something better. And I am not alone. I am one of thousands of workers in the Riverside and San Bernardino Building and Construction Trades Council who have endorsed Liberty Quarry.

Unemployment in Riverside County is 14.6 percent. Our foreclosure rate ranks among the highest in the nation. Businesses are leaving. We need corporate neighbors like Granite Construction that are willing to invest in our local economy.

Liberty Quarry would create good jobs with benefits and bring financial stability to families, generating hundreds of other jobs indirectly in Riverside County.

Granite already employs more than 300 people in Riverside County. Granite has been listed in Fortune Magazine's 100 Best "Companies to Work For."

We need to support and rally around good, solid businesses that put people who have worked all their lives back into a stable job.

My labor organization, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 12, voted to support the quarry because we need the jobs. We need the millions of dollars in tax revenue it will generate -- \$300 million in new sales taxes, \$41 million in new property taxes and fees, \$2.2 million in new county taxes annually and \$6.1 million in state taxes annually. This money will give our government much-needed funding for roads and buildings.

I encourage all Inland residents to support Liberty Quarry to do their part to put our economy back on a solid financial foundation.

Jeff Bradley is a resident of Murrieta and is a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 12.