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*Richard Kennedy*

As a citizen and taxpayer, and living and working in a part of the state that has 24-percent poverty, I feel any increase for these state officials -- who already have higher paying jobs, superior benefits, and better job security (since most of these folks easily get reelected) than most of the working class citizens -- is totally unjustified, outrageous and tone-deaf. We cannot seem to get our roads or state highways fixed or fund healthcare for our working poor, but somehow, we have money for salary increases for these folks? What a joke! Do the right thing for once and vote these raises down. Let them do a household budget, make tough choices, and live within their means like the rest of us.