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A handicap in golf is used to level the playing field. Why do we use the opposite of a handicap in taxes?

One of the reasons the wealth gap expands exponentially is just simple math. Wealth sitting in investments earns interest, always steadily outpacing households who have just enough to get by. As a result, wealthy individuals have a major advantage in our communities - and a corresponding ability to pay more in taxes without any impact to their daily needs.

And wealth actually grows even more rapidly for those who can continue to invest during economic downturns - a fact made painfully clear by the fact that the income of the wealthiest Mainers nearly doubled from 2019 to 2020, while the rest of the community were plunged into a battle against unemployment, poverty, and food and housing insecurity.

We've been cutting taxes for the wealthy for decades and waiting for the benefits to trickle down. All this has done is shift the proportional burden ever more heavily onto the already disadvantaged working class and poor - a self-destructive trajectory justified by an economic fiction whose promises have never materialized.

This is also an especially critical time to establish additional state tax revenue, as federal funding becomes increasingly erratic and unreliable, and tariffs threaten our economy.

It's past time to re-establish a fair tax structure that accounts for wealth advantage, to fund programs that benefit the community as a whole. Let's start dealing in economic reality and adjust the tax on the wealthiest community members to reflect a more appropriate proportion for their fair share.