

Professional Machine Quilting in Washington State

Survey Comments, Part 2

Compiled from a survey conducted by
Cindy Roth, Longarm University

Question: Do you have any other comments about the machine quilting business/industry that you would like to pass along to state legislators.

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| 1 | You need to run the state like I run my quilt related business. With honesty & integrity, within my budget, without asking for hand outs. Taxes are killing small home based businesses. |
| 2 | Machine quilting is a booming business for anyone who is involved in quilt guilds or community service agencies such as American Heroes who provide quilts to soldiers who are recovering from their injuries. |
| 3 | Over the past 15 years I have seen quilter after quilter go bankrupt. For many of us this is something we do to make ends meet in a difficult economy. If the state could exempt us from B&O taxes like we used to be it would sure help out. On a different note, tell the legislature to stop balancing the budget on the backs of our disabled citizens. We have benefits and it looks good on paper but there is no way to use them. Like giving us days at Lakeland Village so we can get a vacation after 18 years but cutting the budget back so far for Lakeland that they have no space. As I said, looks really good on paper but in reality it is just a sneaky cheat of the disabled. |
| 4 | When I began my business in 2000, I was doing over 100 quilts a year, grossing around 12,000 annually. I slipped on ice in 06, and injured my elbow, and now can only do about 35 quilts a year. So I have returned to a regular, part-time job. |
| 5 | Washington State Dept. of Revenue has never sufficiently answered my question on what category we fall under for tax purposes. I have called numerous times, only to receive a different answer each time. First I was told we were a service. Next time I was told retail.....one time I was told..."I don't know for sure". This needs to be clarified. |
| 6 | This is a fast-growing hobby and business in Washington as well as other states |
| 7 | It's a service. It shouldn't be taxed. |
| 8 | recognize us as a service industry like massage therapists. They do not collect or pay state taxes on their services. Thanks! |
| 9 | Government should be kind to any small business in the state so we can continue to survive and enjoy our trade. |

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| 10 | This is a great small business for many reasons...it is often overlooked or not acknowledged. Quilting has connections to many other areas of business and industry. |
| 11 | the people at the dept. of revenue don't really know where machine quilting fits. some say manufacturing, but I was told that it just fit under retail. It is just a service and doesn't fit. |
| 12 | I want to start my own machine quilting business so I can work from home and have my own schedule and still take care of my kids. |
| 13 | Machine quilters are serious business professionals, not just hobbyists. We create family heirlooms that will last for many, many years, not something that will be used for a season and trashed. We would like to be recognized as professionals and to be taken seriously. Currently I work a job as well as quilt for others. Soon I will be quilting for others on a full time basis. I will be relying on this business to support myself and my family. |
| 14 | Government needs to recognize home based businesses as a relevant type of business |
| 15 | I do many, many charity quilts. I would like to supplement my retirement when I actually retire in Feb. |
| 16 | The more you mettle, the harder doing business gets!! |
| 17 | The downturn in the economy has certainly affected this industry. Women are "sitting" on their quilt tops until times get better because there are more important places to put that money. |
| 18 | Classifications were the toughest part for me at the beginning. I really think that it needs to be better defined or more inclusive of different aspects of the quilting professionals business. |
| 19 | Raffle quilts bring in tons of money, perhaps if you're looking for more tax dollars look at church raffles - also tax church property! |
| 20 | For them to keep in mind that quilt shops and quilting professionals are small independent businesses and are not franchised or big box stores. |

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| 21 | Small businesses in general need more assistance than ever to thrive and make our economy a robust one. A society where it's citizens are self-sufficient (i.e, many small businesses) is a society with a thriving economic base. |
| 22 | I love doing it for a hobby. I have sent several quilts to Fort Bragg, NC to the Wounded Warrior Project. |
| 23 | Why is government interested in legislating private enterprise? We all pay the required taxes, is that not enough? Where is the freedom to pursue our own endeavors? |
| 24 | I don't think that people outside of the quilting community realize how many talented, hard working quilters there are! |
| 25 | Presently do not have enough experience to charge for quilting services--but expect to do so at a later date. |
| 26 | In this age of tight budgets promote home based businesses |