

O P I N I O N

Editorial...

Let Sisters' events go forward

Sisters' major events — Sisters Rodeo, Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show, our music festivals — are a vital part of the fabric of our community.

The economic impacts they provide are significant, but their cultural impacts are even more important. These events support scholarships and major educational programs in our schools, and stoke lifelong passions in youth and adults alike. They weave Sisters' sense of identity, and enhance our quality of life.

They must be allowed to go forward this summer.

Event organizers for all of these programs are in a tricky spot. The events don't occur til summer — and signs point to summer bringing significant relief from the COVID-19 pandemic. But organizers can't wait til the pandemic actually recedes to make decisions about whether and how the events can go forward. They have to start making commitments to performers, vendors, and participants in April.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and

Governor Kate Brown need to immediately develop and roll out a plan under which large-scale events such as those that grace Sisters through the summer and fall can safely come back to serve the community and their patrons.

The City of Sisters and Deschutes County do not call the shots on what is allowed or not allowed. They can, however, advocate for our community, and assure the state that they will assist in ensuring that events follow appropriate protocols. Local citizens, too, can write their representatives, the governor, and OHA to seek action.

We urge the Sisters City Council and the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners to lobby the governor to take action *now* to provide clarity and guidance for organizers of major events so that they can effectively plan for how they can safely and responsibly get back in the saddle.



Jim Cornelius, Editor in Chief

Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is 10 a.m. Monday.

To the Editor:

Tom Vilsack's nomination as secretary of agriculture does not belong within Joe Biden's progressive agenda.

Vilsack has served as governor of Iowa, secretary of agriculture under President Obama, and chief lobbyist for the dairy industry. His candidacy is opposed by a vast

coalition of small and minority farmers, as well as consumer, labor, and environmental advocates. Here's why:

He presided over consolidation of Big Ag to take unfair advantage of small farmers.

He failed to protect minority farmers and

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A carbon reduction solution to like

By **Susan Cobb**
Guest Columnist

Now that a majority of humanity agrees climate change is in crisis mode, regardless of why, we all know we need to get more done to reverse that threat to our children's futures. There are two corrections to slow and then reverse climate change: reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and increase sequestration of carbon dioxide. This communique will share the best solution to reduce emissions of GHGs efficiently, effectively and with benefits to you.

The Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act puts a price on carbon emissions and gives the collected funds to the people. The bill was introduced in the last two Congresses and is on track to be reintroduced in the 117th Congress this spring. Over 100 state and local governments have passed resolutions in support of a carbon fee and dividend policy.

What it does:

- Puts a price per ton on carbon emissions at the source (where mined or drilled for and importing of same) assuring the true cost of burning fossil fuel is included in the price of its use. This allows a market-driven response to the price increase. Yes, the price of fossil fuels will go up for consumers, but please, stand by to understand how that is *not* an issue.

- Creates a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund (CDTF) as a repository, within the U.S. Treasury, for the fees collected.

- Uses existing U.S. agencies and processes to assess, apply fees, and to disburse the CDTF funds in equal shares to U.S. citizens and legal residents. Thus, there are no new government programs.

- Every U.S. citizen, legal resident, and their children (under 19 years of age) receive(s) a monthly dividend from the fund via the IRS (one full share to adults,

half-share to children).

- The CDTF monthly dividends will address the higher costs of fossil fuels. For those with low incomes, it will defray the increased cost of fossil fuels. For citizens with sufficient funds, the dividend checks may lead to investing in cleaner energy solutions at home or within their businesses.

- Farmers and ranchers are reimbursed for the increased expense of their on-farm/ranch fossil fuel usage.

- If industries apply or increase their carbon-sequestration efforts, they will receive payments or refunds as defined by the U.S. Secretary of State.

- To not double charge consumers and manufacturing, the EPA laws that currently apply fees for the same GHGs emissions as in the Energy Innovation & Dividend Act, will be on hold while the act is proven effective at driving down emissions, and if not, the EPA laws will be reinstated.

- There are border carbon adjustments, which refund U.S. exporters or importers, for any additional GHG emissions' fees paid to other countries above the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act fees paid.

- The expense to administer the CDTF is very low; 8 percent of CDTF total per year for first five years and thereafter, not greater than 2 percent of a five-year rolling total of the CDTF.








What's not to like?

If you want a closer look at the policy, sponsors, and statements of support, please go to www.energyinnovationact.org. Or, if you would like a more detailed presentation on the bill and comparison with cap-and-trade, please see [article www.outrider.org/climate-change/articles/carbon-fee-dividend/](http://article.outrider.org/climate-change/articles/carbon-fee-dividend/). Urge your senators and representatives to review and pass this act. The more we speak up, the more they are aware of what we like and want. Therefore, the more likely it will become law.

Views expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

<p>Wednesday Sunny 59/30</p> 	<p>Thursday Partly Cloudy 59/35</p> 	<p>Friday Partly Cloudy 61/34</p> 	<p>Saturday Mostly Cloudy 53/32</p> 
<p>Sunday Mostly Cloudy 45/29</p> 	<p>Monday AM Showers 45/28</p> 	<p>Tuesday Partly Cloudy 45/27</p> 	

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Website: www.nuggetnews.com
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Postmaster: Send address changes to The Nugget Newspaper, P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759. Third Class Postage Paid at Sisters, Oregon.

Editor in Chief: Jim Cornelius
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Creative Director: Jess Draper
Community Marketing Partner: Vicki Curlett
Classifieds & Circulation: Lisa May
Owner: J. Louis Mullen

The Nugget is mailed to residents within the Sisters School District; subscriptions are available outside delivery area. Third-class postage: one year, \$55; six months (or less), \$30. First-class postage: one year, \$95; six months, \$65.

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“Contact your representatives...”