

# Straub bares environmental issue record

Gov. Straub held his environmental record up to student scrutiny Monday afternoon at a panel question-and-answer session in the EMU.

"I have a strong and good record in environmental concern," Straub told panel members.

The governor traced the history of environmental legislation in Oregon, and took credit for much of the state's recent progress. Among the topics:

**Beaches:** "When the state Highway dept. wanted to put (Oregon) 101 through the beach areas, we fought and organized a mother's march against it," Straub said.

"Beaches are for kids, not for highways. We should keep our beaches public up to the vegetation line."

**RARE II:** The governor affirmed his support of the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation process, which identifies potential wilderness areas in Oregon.

"My opponent (state Sen. Vic Atiyeh) is opposed to RARE II unless the land has unusual value," Straub said. "Well, I have news for my opponent, I know of a lot of land that has unusual value and should be preserved!"

**Herbicides:** The governor expressed pride in persuading the State Board of Forestry recently to adopt stricter controls on the use of herbicides containing 2,4,5-T (dioxin) on Oregon's forests.

**Energy:** "The most valuable and cheapest and easiest to obtain source of energy is what now is wasted through the attics of people's homes," Straub said.

"We're just scratching the surface in conservation. We need to explore wind, solar, geothermal, biomass conservation and other alternative sources. More nuclear plants should be built only as a last resort."

**Land Use:** "Growth is our number one problem," the governor said. "Oregon is growing 26 percent faster than California. One million more people will be here in the year 2000 than now. That means 500,000 more homes."

By CATHERINE SIEGNER  
Of the Emerald

"We can either plan for this or have homes scattered up and down the Willamette Valley."

Straub said he was "strongly opposed" to Ballot Measure 10, which would nullify the state Land Conservation and Development Commission's (LCD) goals and guidelines for land-use planning.

"It would remove the state from its planning function and would only give it an advisory role," he said.

**Timber Management:** The governor said too much commercial forest land has reverted back to brush, and is no longer productive.

"The secret of increasing the allowable cut is in utilizing what we have," he said. "We should use pre-commercial thinning to compensate for the private timber land that has been overcut."

**Abortion Funding:** Straub said he is opposed to Ballot Measure 7, which would prohibit state funding for abortions.

"Poor women should have the same opportunity and choice as women with financial resources," he explained.

**Oil Ports:** "I feel we have to be extremely cautious. When the GATX Corp. proposed an oil port on the Columbia, I asked the Corps of Engineers to do an EIS (environmental impact statement)," Straub told the crowd. GATX has decided to drop its request.

**Ballot Measure 4:** The governor said he supports Measure 4, which would make formation of People's Utility Districts (PUDs) easier.



Gov. Bob Straub

*Emerald Photo*

"I have always supported public power," he said. "One way or another we have to get more people served by PUDs so they can have access to low-cost Bonneville Power Administration power."

Straub said he also supports Ballot Measure 9, the so-called "Construction Work in Progress" initiative. Nine would prohibit private, investor-owned electric

utilities from charging customers for the cost of building new generating facilities before any power is produced.

**Ballot Measure 6:** The governor said passage of the property tax limitation measure would reduce state services to the public.

"It cuts so deeply into property taxes that every activity in government at the state level will suffer."

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