

Not everyone favors new ozone ordinance

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Oregon Daily Emerald

Although many Eugene residents applaud the efforts of the Eugene City Council in creating a local ozone ordinance, some citizens wonder if local government should be making any regulations.

Gary Houser, a spokesman for Save Our Ozone, says the Eugene regulation is a significant advance in local government action.

"It's a step in the right direction," he said. Houser said other communities will see Eugene as an example for ozone ordinances and follow suit.

The new ordinance, effective July 1, will ban the sale or use of brand products that have ozone-safe, cost-comparable substitutions — instead of banning all products that contain ozone-depleting chemicals.

But Jeff Miller, former Eugene mayor and opponent of the ozone ordinance, says the law is going to do more harm than good.

People will become angry about the ordinance and not follow it, he said.

"The problem with the plan is it builds up resentment, causing people to use the products underground," Miller said.

Miller said that if people can go to Springfield or Santa Clara to buy products, the ordinance is not going to be effective. What the local government needs to do is support an education campaign, he said.

Miller called the law "arrogant," saying that Eugene has many other projects that could use the money.

The best way to have an impact on saving the ozone, Miller said, is to set an example. If Eugene can stop using ozone-depleting substances, he said, citizens will follow.

"Everything Eugene has done is not going to help the ozone one bit," he said. "It's a feel good measure that is meaningless and will cost money."

Miller said the city should promote awareness rather than concentrate on enforcement. He equated it to recycling. Eugene citizens are not required to par-

ticipate in recycling — most participate voluntarily, he said.

However, this type of approach to protecting the ozone is not effective, said Bill Walsh, ozone campaigner for Greenpeace. Citizens need to know what is acceptable, he said.

"The purpose of the law is to alert people that this is a problem," he said. These laws coerce behavior and, along with education, can make a difference.

Eugene City Councilman Pat Farr opposed the ordinance when it was in front of the council. Eugene cannot have a significant impact on the ozone, he said at the May 10 City Council meeting. Farr said Eugene has many other issues it needs to attend to.

The ozone issue came up during the May 1994 election when a group of citizens put a measure on the ballot that would ban ozone-depleting products. Voters rejected the measure 2-1.

In December, the Council reevaluated the issue and developed ozone laws that would have gone into effect this July. These laws banned all ozone-depleting chemicals.

Houser said the original proposal brought to the City Council in December, which he helped develop, asked for a citizens advisory committee to help determine what products were in violation of the law. The new law is at the discretion of the city manager, Houser said.

The revisions are based on recommendations from Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, the council officers, letters from citizens, business concerns and research of similar ordinances from other cities.

The new regulations will allow the city manager to use information from the United Nations Montreal Protocol and the Environmental Protection Agency in deciding what should be considered an ozone-depleting product.

For the past two decades, scientists have warned that chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere will lead to the depletion of the ozone layer.

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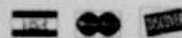
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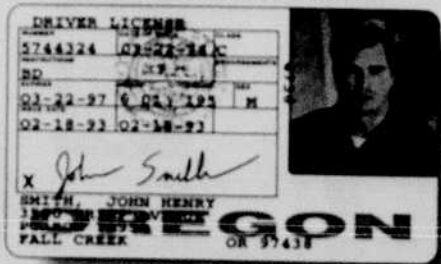


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