

## Your views

### LETTERS

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We know that having a safe, affordable place to call home means everything else is possible. Too many of our community members lack access to safe, secure and affordable housing. There are many different aspects of our housing problems in Oregon, and the solutions might look different depending on where you live. This November, there is one thing we can all do to help: Vote yes on Measure 102.

Today, when local communities consider passing a bond to build affordable housing, Oregon's constitution actually prohibits local governments from working with affordable housing developers to build homes with bond funds. This constitutional ban means local governments must own and control any housing built with bonds, and cannot use bond dollars to leverage other resources — like federal dollars — to build affordable housing. It also means that local governments cannot access the expertise of nonprofit affordable housing developers like CASA of Oregon, or others.

That's why we're strongly advocating for Measure 102. It is a bipartisan solution that would easily fix this problem.

Public and private sector cooperation has been key to creating affordable housing over the past 30 years. Non-profit affordable housing developers have a proven track record working with local, state and federal government to create long-term affordable housing. Measure 102 would allow local bond funds to be used in the same way and would create more affordable housing that our communities desperately need.

Our organization is working hard and thinking creatively to develop solutions to the problems our communities are facing. We are piecing together the puzzle to help ensure everyone has access to a safe, affordable home. Join us in supporting Measure 102 this November.

*Peter Hainley  
Executive Director  
CASA of Oregon*

#### Wilcox: Walden does stand up for our health care

To the Editor:  
How is it possible that blatant lies are passing as news today? I am tired of people spewing absolute nonsense about our representative, Greg Walden, especially when it comes to health care.

He has been active in fighting for our health care since he first took office. Greg Walden has fought to protect those with pre-existing conditions. While many like to attack the AHCA, this legislation would have prohibited insurance companies from denying, not renewing, or rescinding coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

Additionally, insurance companies could not exclude benefits based on a pre-existing coverage.

Another famous

liberal line is that "one in five people in our district would lose health care" — another rhetoric-induced lie. This number comes from the number of people on Medicaid.

If the legislation said "we will completely eliminate Medicaid," the above statement may be an accurate statement, but completely removing Medicaid was never on the table, and was never an option. This is a blatant lie being used to create fear and confusion.

Greg Walden has fought for those with pre-existing conditions, he has passed the longest extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (no thanks to the Democrats who held up the passage of the bill) and he was the only member of the Oregon delegation to vote for CHIP on the House floor every time.

He has funded community health centers, opened up rural health care and fought for veterans' health care. I know this because I was an R.N. for almost 50 years with more than 40 years in emergency rooms. And my husband a Vietnam veteran who has benefited from Greg Walden's work.

Greg Walden is working for us. Can we please get back to the truth?

*Pam Wilcox  
Hermiston*

#### Sharp: Don't disrupt Walden's good working relationship with ranchers

To the Editor:  
Incorrect information has recently been circulated from Harney County regarding which candidate I support in the upcoming Oregon Congressional District 2 election between Greg Walden and his opponents.

Let there be no misunderstanding, I continue to support Representative Greg Walden. I am a lifelong registered Republican, have always voted for, have donated to, and have no intention in disrupting the good working relationship between the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, cattle producers of Harney County and within the State of Oregon as enjoyed with Representative Greg Walden.

Please join me in your support of Greg and also for our gubernatorial candidate Knute Buehler in this November's election.

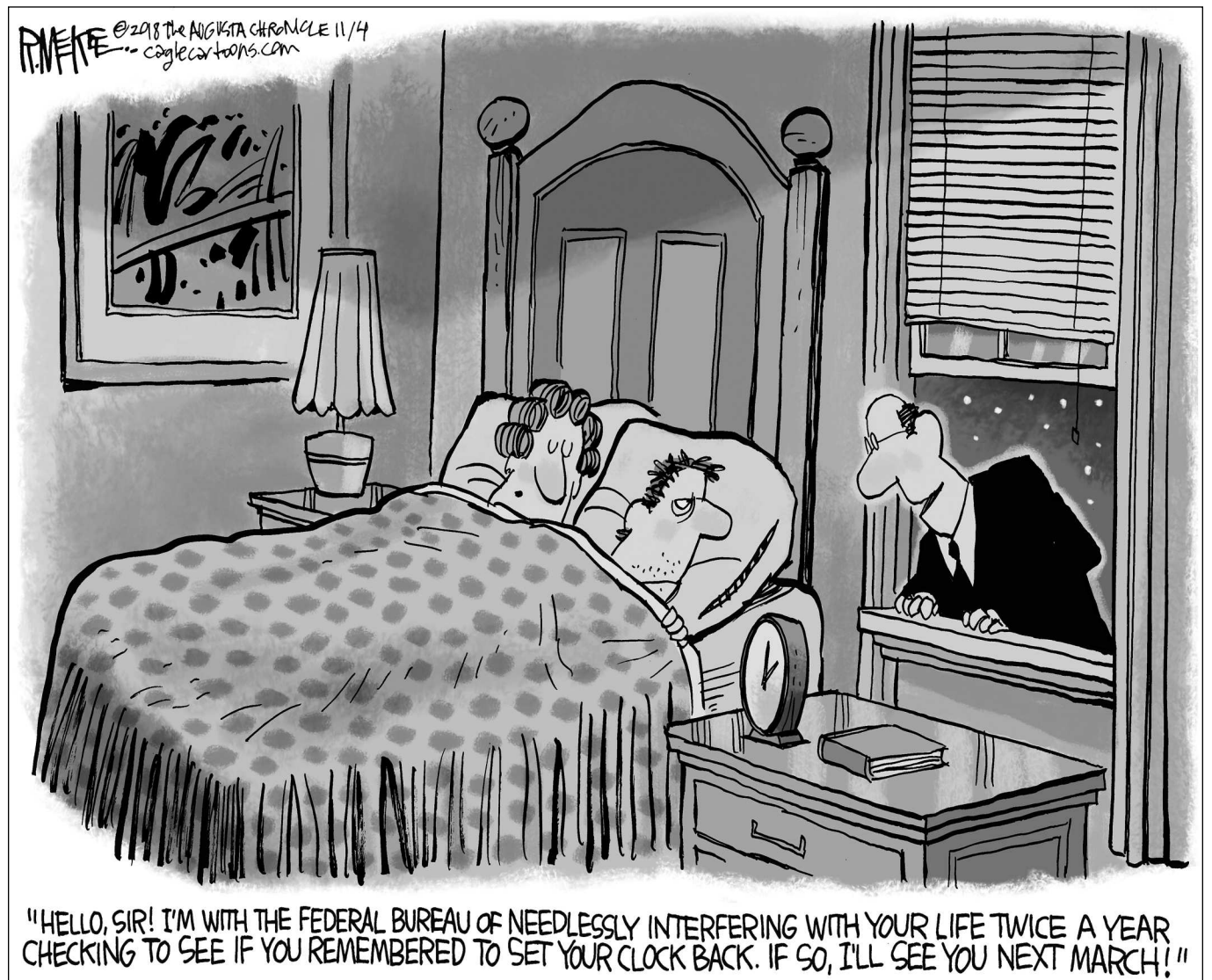
*Tom Sharp  
Sharp Ranches, LLC  
Burns*

#### Brookover: Walden needs to be concerned for constituents

To the Editor:  
The Observer article on Greg Walden during a tour around Eastern Oregon was soft on our representative.

Walden's association with President Trump, who is known for fake news, makes me question the representative's integrity too.

Speaking of integrity, last year, Walden's promotion of a health care bill as an alternative to the Affordable Care Act spurred an OPB article by Jeff Mapes that quoted Patrick Willard of Families USA, a Washing-



ton, D.C., advocacy group, who said that Walden claimed to "support protecting people with pre-existing conditions" but then pulled "a bait-and-switch."

Constance and Kevin Marr of Main Street Alliance reported: "The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, whose analysis has always been taken as fact by both sides of the aisle in Washington, estimated that the bill Walden promoted would strip 20 million Americans of health care, spike costs for millions more and reduce the overall quality of care."

We need to look at the candidate's concern for the majority of constituents in his district.

*Meg Brookover  
Bend*

#### Clark: It's the Democrats we can't trust

To the Editor:  
The Oregon governor's party has been televising ads that say, "We can't trust Knute Buehler." But who really can't we trust? The Democratic candidates. They are the party of lies, locally, statewide and nationally.

Since the very day that Donald Trump was elected his Democratic enemies have not ceased to tell lie after lie about him.

In the recent Supreme Court nomination hearing, all Kavanaugh's enemies did was propound lying accusations against him. Here in Oregon the Democrats are doing the same thing — lying about Buehler, lying about Walden and anyone else that suits their fancy. There are no positive points they can say about their own candidates, so instead they lie about their opponents.

Both Walden and Buehler are hardworking, people-caring, common-sense men, and their records prove it.

They're the kind of people we need in government. Brown has a record of no achievement in office and McLeod-Skinner has had only one real job in Oregon — city manager of Phoenix — from which she was fired after four months. Then why all the hype about

them? Because the Democratic Party has lots of money from the unions and from socialist billionaires like George Soros, Peter Lewis (CEO of Progressive Insurance), Ted Turner of Atlanta, Pat Stryker, Tim Gill, Jared Polis and the like.

They can flood the TV with ads, communities with signs and newspapers with letters. They care nothing about the worthlessness of their candidates, only that they are Democrats and will give the Democratic Party power and control.

Don't be deceived by their propaganda. Vote for less government, lower taxes, common sense laws, economic prosperity, morality, decency, patriotism and a future. Rescue our state. Rescue our country. Vote right. Vote Republican.

*George Clark  
The Dalles*

#### Shea: History is important

To the Editor:  
Wanted to commend your decision for printing the recent article's highlighting Union Country history. Interesting stories similar to the ones like the clock and MR Porter are what set newspapers apart.

*John P. Shea  
Cricket Flat*

#### Haechrel: Independents and non-affiliated voters should vote for Kate and Jamie

To the Editor:  
Greg Walden is like a 20-year-old car. All the great qualities it once had are gone. It now barely gets by and clearly doesn't provide the same satisfaction it once did. It's time for an upgrade to a new model.

Walden once had an impressive record of "working across the aisle," but like on an old car, that feature ceased operating. He once sought to address the needs of his constituents. But this 20-year-old model had no navigation system so Walden lost his way and his connection to us. Walden has found new bosses — the corporations and the

#### Write to us

##### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words and must be signed and carry the author's address and phone number (for verification purposes only).

We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We do not fact check. We will not publish poetry, consumer complaints against businesses or personal attacks against private individuals. Thank-you letters are discouraged.

Letter writers are limited to one letter every two weeks. Email your letters to [news@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com) or mail them to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850.

##### MY VOICE

My Voice columns should be 500 words. Submissions should include a portrait-type photograph of the author. Authors also should include their full name, age, occupation and relevant organizational memberships. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We do not fact check. We reject those published elsewhere.

Send columns to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850, fax them to 541-963-7804 or email them to [news@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com).

Republican Party leaders in Congress.

Money talks, and it has spoken loudly and often to Walden during the past 10 years. Who do we really hear when listening to his TV and radio ads? Are we hearing Walden or his corporate sponsors?

It's time for last-minute deciders to leave the sidelines and enter the game. Help choose the new model. Non-voters, infrequent voters, registered Independents and non-affiliated voters must realize what tremendous collective power they possess. Together these people will ultimately decide who will represent us in Congress. Collectively these people control more than 100,000 votes. This is a tremendous voting power, but only if used.

Choosing not to vote is choosing the status quo. It is a choice which accepts the Congressional bickering we have endured during the past ten years. Not voting condones a corrupt and morally bankrupt political system, paid for by corporations and wealthy donors. Not voting is a slap in the face of all previous generations who sacrificed so much to build a stronger, safer, and better America.

The Independent Party has endorsed Jamie McLeod-Skinner. Their candidate for governor has withdrawn and they've

endorsed Kate Brown. Registered Independent voters should follow that lead and vote for Jamie McLeod-Skinner. Doing so gives them great influence in the election and greatly increases the likelihood of achieving their political goals.

Let's all come together in trading in our outdated model. Jamie McLeod-Skinner will be a fantastic replacement.

*Robert Haechrel  
The Dalles*

#### Puentes: Measure 105 will not make Oregon safer

To the Editor:  
All Oregonians should feel safe where they live, work, learn and play. It shouldn't matter what color our skin is, whether we're documented or not, or what neighborhood we're in. We should all feel safe going about our day-to-day business.

Measure 105 will not make Oregon safer. It will lead communities to distrust the police and other government workers, which means they'll be less likely to report crimes or testify in court. Make sure Oregon stays safe. Vote no on Measure 105 by Nov. 6.

*Jennifer Puentes  
La Grande*