

**GUEST EDITORIAL FROM THE NEWS-REVIEW**

## HB 2656 would 'shut down timber industry'

A bill proposed in the Oregon State Legislature aiming to ban clearcutting in forestland watershed is bad news for Oregonians.

The bill, House Bill 2656, would ban clearcutting, roadbuilding, and the application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers in forestland watersheds that supply public drinking water systems.

There's no doubt that protecting the state's drinking water is a worthy endeavor, but as introduced, the bill would cripple logging operations across the state that already abide by strict regulations. Hampton Lumber, a Portland-based company, told the Capital Press that half of its 89,000 forested acres are in watersheds affected by the bill, and a spokesman for Roseburg Forest Products said the bill intends to "effectively shut down the timber industry."

As the Earth's air and water temperatures rise, research shows toxic algae blooms in drinking water systems are on the rise, so there is a real risk in our state. Just last year, an algae bloom in Detroit Lake shut down drinking water supplies in Salem for more than a month.

But kneecapping local businesses that pay good wages to tens of thousands of hard-working Oregonians isn't the solution — especially without a grace period written into the bill.

Even the bill's chief sponsor, Rep. Andrea Salinas, D-Lake Oswego, said her bill may seem "drastic" and hoped the bill would "start a conversation."

But starting that conversation with an idea that would target those in already struggling counties like Douglas County isn't a great way to inspire change or promote progress.

Instead, it further entrenches a pair of groups that have been fighting each other for decades, which is making things much worse for the state. Not better.

**GUEST EDITORIAL FROM THE BEND BULLETIN**

## Bicyclists' rolling stops are dangerous

Stop signs mean stop. Yet a bill to make stopping optional for bicyclists moved ahead in the Oregon Legislature on Tuesday. It's a bad idea.

Oregon should be doing things to make roads safer for cyclists, not to create more unpredictability for everyone on the road.

Senate Bill 998 was originally a placeholder bill directing the state court administrator to study safety. The bill was gutted and stuffed with an amendment to allow bicyclists at a stop sign or a flashing red signal to "slow to a safe speed" and proceed on through.

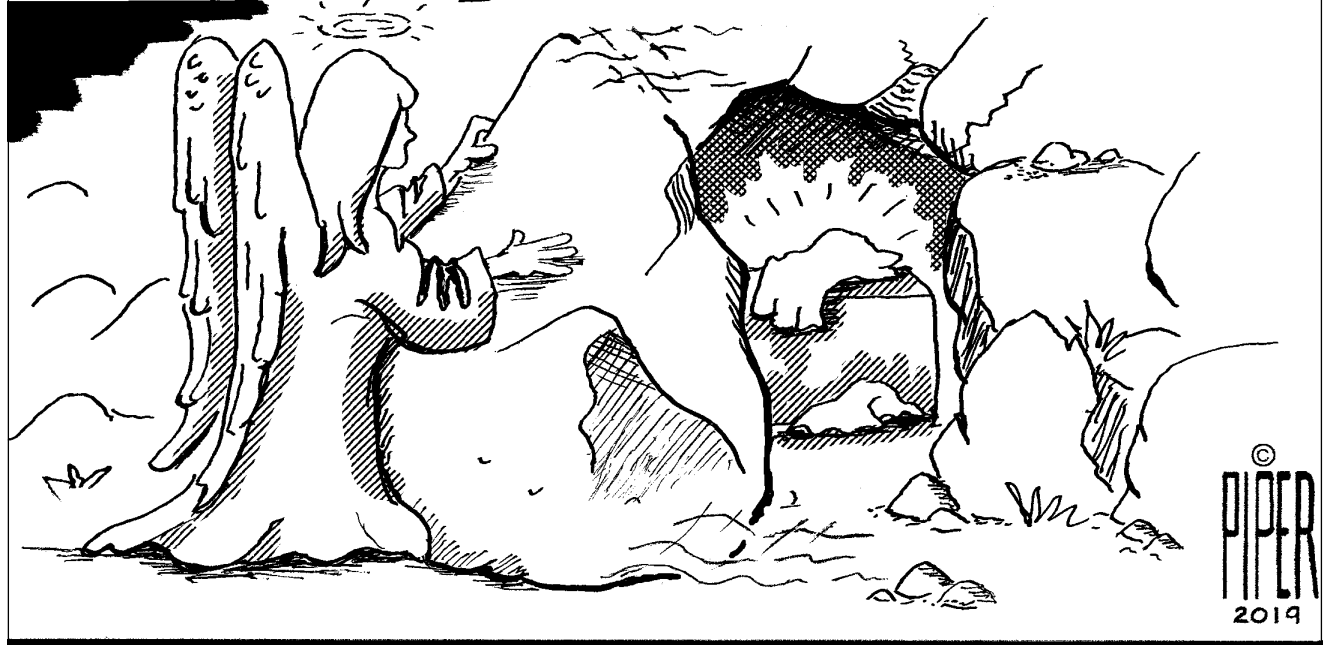
Of course, that's what many bicyclists already do. Even members of the Senate Judiciary Committee admitted that's what they do. Is that any reason to legalize it? No.

There were other reasons suggested in committee. It might encourage people to ride bikes instead of drive cars. It's easier to get a bike going again if the rider doesn't have to stop. Both those things are true, but it doesn't overcome the reason a stop sign means stop — safety.

This change in the law is sometimes called an "Idaho" stop because it has been permitted in Idaho since 1982. In Idaho, bicyclists can also treat a red traffic light as a stop sign. Have these changes made Idaho safer or less safe? We were not able to find any impressive evidence. Idaho bicycle groups like it. Idaho also has a good general bicycle safety record. Is that the stop sign law? Is it something else? It's not clear.

Sensible rules that make biking safer are a good thing. Rule changes that create unpredictability and erode safety should be avoided.

IT'S NOT ABOUT SOCIAL GATHERINGS, EGG HUNTS OR RABBITS...  
REMEMBER THE REAL REASON FOR EASTER IS...



# Easter — Think about it

Easter is an exciting day for Christians around the world. Churches around the globe look forward to celebrating the resurrection of Christ.

Clergy persons look forward to a one day larger attendance. Church choirs and music programs try to shine brighter and give their best effort. For one day the light and victory of new life and victory over death rings bright in a world filled with so much gloom and death.

Merchants will sell some clothes as some people still buy new outfits for Easter. Some people are like me in that I got over worrying about what clothes I wear to church a long time ago. I still dress up sometimes of course but I don't mind wearing an old suit.

Attitudes are changing toward Easter in America. Many church crowds have dwindled and Easter doesn't seem to resurrect some of the religious



**SYNDICATED COLUMNIST**  
GLENN MOLLETTE

dead anymore. There was a day when people who never attended church all year would rise up and go. Today, that's happening less.

I actually have heard regular church attenders say they aren't going on Easter Sunday. "Too many people and not enough seats or parking," I have heard recently. Regardless of what you do on Easter please take a moment and think about life and death. Death is real. We are all going to die. The cemetery is a lonely place. The only hope I know of dealing with death and the cemetery is the story of Easter.

Easter is about Jesus who was crucified for the sins of the world. The Bible says he arose from the grave and was seen by

more than five hundred people.

His disciples were beat down and had given up all hope after his crucifixion. When they saw Jesus they were totally transformed from men who were emotionally devastated to men who were filled with hope, vigor and power.

They literally hid and ran for their lives when Jesus was arrested and crucified. After they had spent time with the risen Jesus they were willing to face anything and literally die for him. These men were filled with new hope and victory.

Don't we all need this today? Surely every person on the planet needs hope and victory. We need it for daily living. We need it as we face the

hour of death. We all can use some newness of life to just face today.

Thomas is known for being a big doubter but he changed his mind when he literally touched the risen Jesus.

In the Bible story he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God," John 20:28. We don't have that privilege of being convinced like Thomas. However, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

This week once again Easter rolls around on the Calendar. Think about it. Think about all of it. Think about life, death, eternity, heaven, hell and the cemetery. Think about all that stuff. It can be morbid.

The point of Easter is victory and celebration and more. I choose the point of Easter and if by chance it's all a hoax what do I have to lose? If it's all true I certainly have a great deal to gain.

### CONTACT YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

**City of La Grande:** Mayor Steve Clements, City Manager Robert Strope; P.O. Box 670, La Grande, OR 97850; 541-962-1309; fax 541-963-3333.  
**Union County Commissioners:** Donna Beverage, Matt Scarfo and Paul Anderes; 1106 K Ave., La Grande, OR 97850; 541-963-1001; fax 541-963-1079.  
**Wallowa County Commissioners:** John Hillock, Todd Nash and Susan Roberts; 101 S. River St., Room 202, Enterprise, OR 97828; 541-426-4543, ext. 11; fax 541-426-0582.  
**Elgin City Councilors:** Mayor Allan Duffy, 501 N 11th St., 541-437-1016, mayor@cityofelginor.org; Mary West, 260 N 5th Ave., 541-805-0443, councilor3@

cityofelginor.org; Kathy Warren, PO Box 697, 541-786-9611, councilor6@cityofelginor.org; Risa Halgarth, PO Box 525, 541-437-9462, councilor2@cityofelginor.org; Rocky Burgess, 800 N 14th St., P.O. Box 854, 541-786-2417, councilor1@cityofelginor.org; David Reed, 1011 Detroit St., PO Box 368; 541-975-3306, councilor4@cityofelginor.org; Ryan Martin, councilor5@cityofelginor.org  
**Enterprise City Councilors:** Mayor Stacey Karvoski, mayorfenterprise@gmail.com; Jenni Word; Dave Elliott; Ashley Sullivan; Micah Agnew; Larry Christman; Chris Pritchard; 541-426-4196; mail to City

of Enterprise, 108 N.E. 1st Street, Enterprise, OR 97828  
**Imbler City Councilors:** Mayor Mike McLean, Corrine Wilfong, Herman Ortmann, Mark Howell, Rick Vicek, Joan Harding, Jason Berglund; 180 Ruckman Ave.; P.O. Box 40, Imbler OR 97841; 541-534-6095  
**Joseph City Councilors:** Mayor Teresa Sajonia; Martin Hamilton; Pearl Strum; Tanya Collier; Michael J Lockhart; Patty Bufford 541-432-3832; P.O. Box 15, Joseph, Oregon 97846; 201 North Main St.; cityofjosephoregon@gmail.com  
**La Grande City Councilors:** Mayor Steve Clements, Gary Lillard, Nicole Howard, Corrine Dutto, Mary Ann Miesner,

Jim Whitbeck, Justin Rock; through the City Manager's office, 541-962-1309  
**Union City Councilors:** Mayor Leonard Flint, LeonardFlint@cityofunion.com; John Farmer, johnfarmer@cityofunion.com; Leslie McMillan; Sue Hawkins, susanhawkins@cityofunion.com; Matt Later, mattlater@cityofunion.com; Jay Blackburn, jayblackburn@cityofunion.com; Walt Brookshire, waltbrookshire@cityofunion.com  
**City of Cove:** Mayor Del Little, (503)-508-6727 504 Alder Street P.O. Box 8 Cove, OR 97824 City Manager Donna Lewis, (541) 568-4566

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Phone: **541-963-3161**  
Toll free (Oregon): 1-800-422-3110  
Fax: 541-963-7804  
Email: news@agrandeobserver.com  
Website: www.lagrandeobserver.com  
Street address: 1406 Fifth St., La Grande

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**STAFF**

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