

OUR VIEW

A bad situation made worse

Gov. Kate Brown signed an executive order Tuesday directing state agencies to significantly slash carbon emissions, a move that may not be unexpected, but one that ultimately makes a bad situation worse.

Brown's actions come after the 2020 Legislature had a meltdown over the issue and Republican lawmakers departed the capital. The carbon emission limit plan has been on the Democratic legislative agenda now for more than two years and in that time it has produced not much more than hot debate, angst and political gridlock. Brown should get credit for her determination, but the carbon emission agenda is one that has failed on the legislative stage and it will now most likely face a myriad of legal challenges as the governor moves forward with her plan.

Essentially, Brown directed state agencies to reduce the state's carbon emissions and the Legislature's Emergency Board voted to furnish \$5 million to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to begin drafting regulations to reach that goal.

Local politicians, such as Rep. Greg Smith, R-Hep- pner, are now looking through the governor's plan and, for the most part, reserving final judgment. Smith, though, did rightly point out Tuesday that one concern of the executive order is how it could impact local food processors in Eastern Oregon.

That is a valid concern and one residents should watch carefully. That's because, as Smith pointed out, the local region competes on a global scale. Unlike 50 or 60 years ago, the farmer, rancher and food processor locally faces competition from other nations who do not have the same type of commitment to the environment that Oregon does.

While the right move now may to be to coldly evalu- ate the governor's executive order and its impact, the truth is the overall carbon emission limit proposal needs to fade away. In its place, lawmakers should work together to find a compromise to help the state be successful rather than tearing its political fabric apart over a flashpoint issue.

OTHER VIEWS

Getting good info about the virus

Editorial from the (Bend) Bulletin:

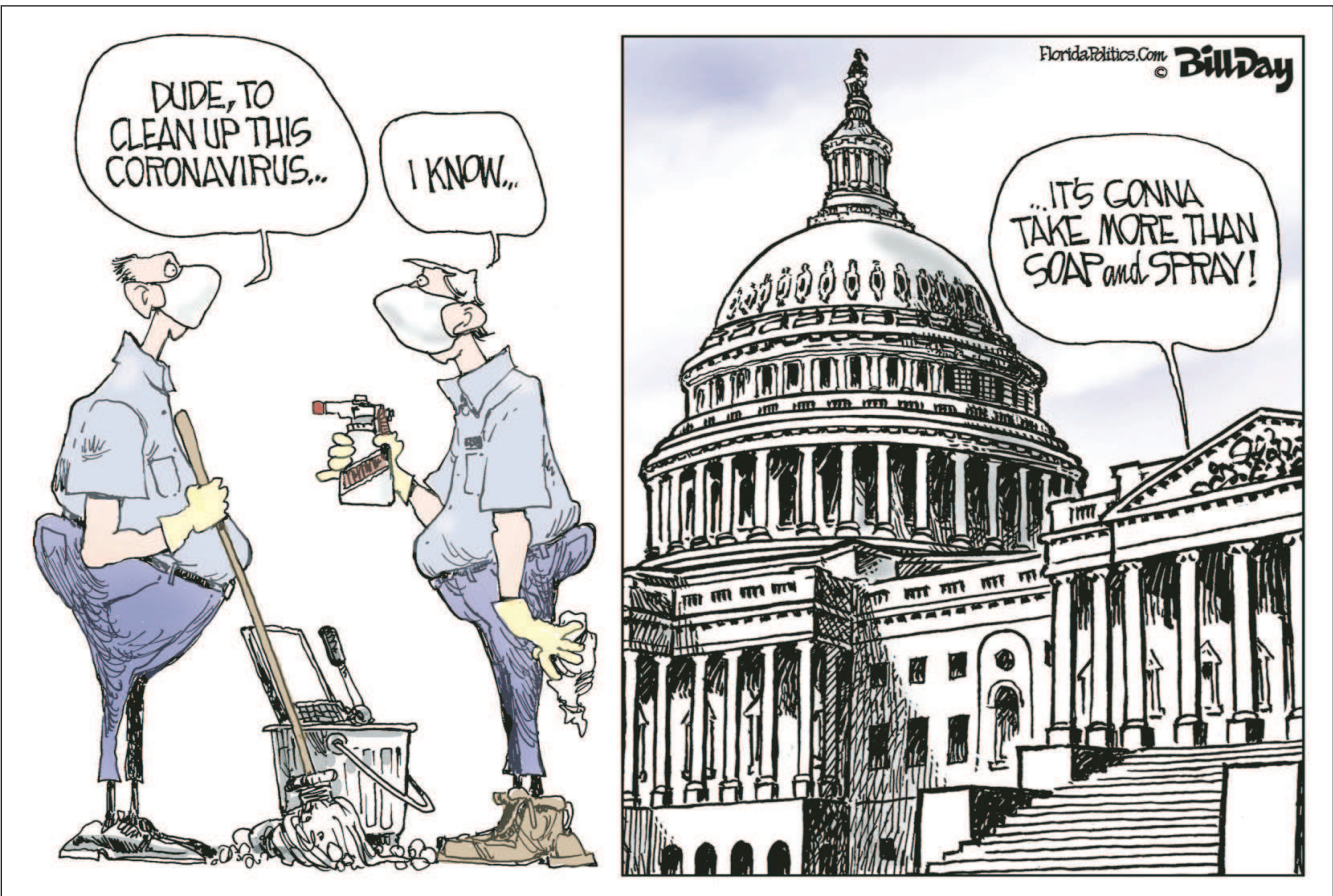
It's way too early to say how the state of Oregon and county health departments will be judged in dealing with the new coronavirus disease, called COVID-19.

But if you want solid, accurate information about what is going on, they are making strong efforts to bring it to you. A number of public health departments have been putting out a daily briefing with details about the number of cases in Oregon, the nation and the world. There are links to more information, including what you should do. They will deliver updates directly to your inbox every day if you sign up.

One thing they stress is if people have concerns about having COVID-19, they should call their health care provider first. Don't just automatically march off to the emergency room. Listen to what your health provider says. Do call 911, if you have a medical emergency.

The Oregon Health Authority has also begun holding regular briefings. Those can be watched on YouTube. OHA and other officials do their best to answer any questions. The OHA website, www.oregon.gov/oha, is also loaded up with information.

Newspapers are, of course, a good source of information, too. But if you want more, the county public health depart- ments and the state are providing it.



Your views

Love your children as much as you love your phone

I was recently at a local coffee shop when a mother and her small child entered. Having worked in an early child- hood program, I was looking forward to seeing them interact with each other.

The mother put her child in a high chair and placed several toys on the tray. Then she began looking at her phone. Not once did she even glance at her child.

Parents, children desperately need interaction with you. Do yourself and your child a favor by visiting [www. circleofsecurityinternational.com](http://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com). It provides wonderful information.

I believe today's young children are at risk and will pay the price for missing out on necessary, special, one-on-one time with parents. So, parents, love your children as much as you love your phone. Spend as much time with them as you do on your device.

Darcia Throop
La Grande

Time for a leadership change in sheriff's office

I am a retired chief of police with 42

Write to us

LETTERSTOTHE 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 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 or mail them to La Grande Observer, 911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande, 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 reject those published elsewhere.

Send columns to La Grande Observer, 911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande, 97850, or email them to pwright@lagrandeobserver.com.

years of law enforcement experience and 50-plus years in public safety. For the past 17 years I have been an ob- server of the Union County Sheriff's Office, and for a variety of reasons I am convinced, professionally, that it is time for a leadership change.

It has been my practice to rarely en- dorse a candidate for a law enforcement

position. However, in this case, I believe the interests of the Union County Sher- iff's Office and the citizens of Union County would be best served by electing Bill Miller as the next sheriff. Thus I am endorsing his candidacy.

Jerry Boyd
Prineville

YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

President Donald Trump: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washing- ton, D.C. 20500; 202-456-1414; fax 202- 456-2461; to send comments, go to [www. whitehouse.gov/contact](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact).

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley: D.C. office: 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Fax: 202-228-3997. Website: [merkley.senate. gov/](http://merkley.senate.gov/). Email: merkley.senate.gov/contact/. Portland office: One World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St. Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204; 503-326-3386; fax 503-326-2900. Pendleton office: 310 S.E. Second St. Suite 105, Pendleton 97801; 541-278-1129; email elizabeth_scheeler@merkley.senate.gov.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden: D.C. office: 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washing- ton, D.C. 20510-3703; phone: 202-224-5244; fax 202-228-2717. Website: [wyden.senate. gov](http://wyden.senate.gov). Email: wyden.senate.gov/contact/. La Grande office: 105 Fir St., No. 210, La Grande, OR 97850; 541-962-7691; fax, 541- 963-0885; email [kathleen_cathey@wyden. senate.gov](mailto:kathleen_cathey@wyden.senate.gov).

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (2nd District): D.C. office: 2185 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-0001, 202-225-6730; fax 202-225-5774. Website: [walden.house. gov/](http://walden.house.gov/). Email: walden.house.gov/e-mail-greg. La Grande office: 1211 Washington Ave., La Grande, OR 97850; 541-624-2400, email jorden.noyes@mail.house.gov.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown: 900 Court St. N.E., Salem, OR 97301; 503-378-4582.

Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno: 136 State Capitol. Salem OR 97310-0722; 503-986-1523.

Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Reed: 350 Winter St. N.E., Suite 100, Salem, OR 97301- 3896; 503-378-4329.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosen- blum: Justice Building, Salem, OR 97301- 4096; 503-378-4400.

State Sen. William S. Hansell (29th District/Pendleton): Salem office: 900 Court St. NE., S-423, Salem, OR 97301; 503-986- 1729. Website: www.oregonlegislature.gov/ hansell. Email: sen.billhansell@oregonleg- islature.gov.

State Rep. Greg Barreto (58th District/ Cove): Salem office: 900 Court St. NE., H-384, Salem, OR 97301; 503-986-1458. Website: www.oregonlegislature.gov/barreto. Email: rep.gregbarreto@oregonlegislature.gov.

State Rep. Greg Smith (57th District): Salem office: 900 Court St. NE., H-482, Salem, OR, 97301; 503-986-1457. Heppner office: P.O. Box 219, Heppner, OR 97836; 541-676-5154; Website: www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithg. Email: rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov.

Oregon Legislature: Legislative docu- ments and information are available online at www.leg.state.or.us.

City of La Grande: Mayor Steve Clem- ents, City Manager Robert Strobe; 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](mailto: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](mailto:councilor2@cityofelginor.org); Rocky Burgess, 800 N 14th St., P.O. Box 854, 541-786-2417, [councilor1@ cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor1@cityofelginor.org); David Reed, 1011 Detroit St., PO Box 368; 541-975-3306, [councilor4@ cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor4@cityofelginor.org); Ryan Martin, [councilor5@ cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor5@cityofelginor.org).

La Grande City Council: Mayor Steve Cle- ments, Gary Lillard, Nicole Howard, Corrine Dutto, Mary Ann Miesner, Jim Whitbeck, Justin Rock; through the city manager's of- fice, 541-962-1309.

City of Cove: Mayor Del Little, (503)-508- 6727, 504 Alder St., P.O. Box 8, Cove, OR 97824; City Recorder Donna Lewis, (541) 568-4566.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE
NEWSSTAND PRICE: \$1.50
You can save up to 34% off the single-copy price with home delivery.
Call **541-963-3161** to subscribe.

Subscription rates per month:
Union & Wallowa Co.\$11.80
By mail, all other U.S.\$15



THE OBSERVER

An independent newspaper founded in 1896

(USPS 299-260)

Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, Oregon 97801. Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (except Dec. 25) by EO Media Group, 911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande, OR 97850 (USPS 299-260)

COPYRIGHT © 2020 THE OBSERVER
The Observer retains ownership and copyright protection of all staff-prepared news copy, advertising copy, photos and news or ad illustrations. They may not be reproduced without explicit prior approval.

Phone:
541-963-3161

Toll free (Oregon):
1-800-781-3214
Fax: 541-963-7804
Email:
news@lagrandeobserver.com
Website:
www.lagrandeobserver.com
Street address:
911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
The Observer,
911 Jefferson Ave.,
La Grande, OR 97850
Periodicals postage paid at:
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

STAFF

Publisher.....	Karrine Brogoitti	Classifieds	Devi Mathson
Regional circulation director	Kelli Craft	Home delivery advisor.....	Amanda Fredrick
Editor	Phil Wright	Customer service rep	Mollie Lynch
News clerk.....	Lisa Lester Kelly	Advertising representative	Julii Bloodgood
Sports editor.....	Ronald Bond	Advertising representative	Amy Horn
Reporter.....	Dick Mason	Graphic design supervisor.....	Dorothy Kautz
Reporter.....	Sabrina Thompson	Graphic design	Cheryl Christian
		IT support	Nicole Gilbride

Chris Rush, Regional Publisher