

Oregon

Supporters of daylight saving ban fall back

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A ballot initiative to end daylight saving time in Oregon is on hold until 2017.

Medford resident David Miles launched a petition drive in November to abolish the tradition by 2018.

Miles said his force of about 20 volunteers was insufficient to gather the required 117,578 signatures to place the measure on the ballot in November. As of Sunday, the group had collected about 1,000 signatures, Miles said.

“We have our sights set on next year,” Miles said.

“I had to look at it realistically, as much as I would have loved to have it on the ballot this year,” he added.

Miles said he plans to start a Go Fund Me page to raise money to hire paid petitioners next year.

The community service officer with Jackson County Sheriff’s Office said he started the initiative after feeling tired of complaining every year about losing sleep and adjusting clocks and deciding he should do something about it.



Submitted photo

Medford, Ore., resident David Miles launched a petition drive in November to abolish daylight saving time by 2018. Miles said his force of 20 volunteers was insufficient to gather the required 117,578 signatures to place the measure on the ballot in November.

Adjusting the clock forward in the spring may cause spikes in workplace accidents and traffic crashes, according to multiple bodies of research, including one by the University of Colorado.

A University of California-Berkeley study found that a two-month extension of daylight saving time in Australia during the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 failed to curtail electricity demand.

Lawmakers in several states, including California, have proposed alternatives to

daylight saving changes or asked that voters decide on whether to keep the practice.

“What I would really like to see the country say is enough is enough and end daylight saving nationally,” Miles said.

He said if more states opt to abolish the practice, there may be more momentum for a national change.

Oregon Sen. Kim Thatcher, R-Keizer, introduced a bill in January 2015 that would have let voters to decide whether to abolish daylight

saving in 2021.

Dozens of Oregonians testified in favor of the measure.

The legislation stalled in the Senate Rules Committee because some lawmakers were concerned about being out of sync with Washington and California, according to Thatcher’s office.

The country had an on-and-off-again relationship with daylight saving time until 1966 when Congress codified it to try to simplify a confusing patchwork of different time zones across the country. Individual states were allowed to opt out. Arizona, Hawaii and some U.S. territories have chosen to remain on standard time.

The No More Daylight Saving Time in Oregon initiative was the first that Miles sponsored.

“I’m not upset it didn’t get on the ballot,” he said. “I learned a lot. I understand that some of my goals were unrealistic. It’ll give me more of an ability to be successful next time.”

In the meantime, he maintains a Facebook page where he’ll give supporters updates on the effort.

<https://www.facebook.com/nomoredstinoregon/>

Sage grouse sighting raises Oregon wind power concerns

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

A wintertime sighting of sage grouse could prove significant in the legal controversy over proposed wind turbines on ranchland in southeast Oregon.

Nearly five years ago, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management approved a 12-mile transmission line across its property that’s necessary for the construction of a 100-megawatt wind power project in Harney County.

Ranchers and community leaders hoped the installation of wind turbines on private land would provide a new source of income and jobs in the rural county, which has long stagnated economically.

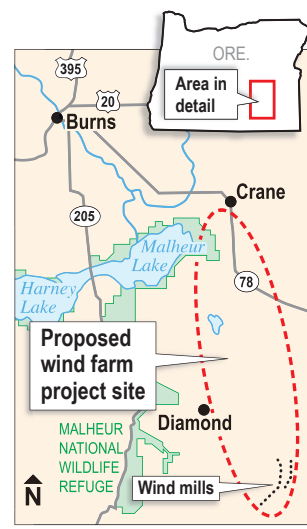
The Oregon Natural Desert Association and the Audubon Society of Portland filed an unsuccessful lawsuit to block the transmission line, but the BLM says continued legal uncertainty has prevented the project from moving forward.

The dispute has now landed before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which held oral arguments in the case in Portland, Ore., on March 10.

During the hearing, appellate judges Raymond Fisher and Marsha Berzon sharply questioned why the BLM omitted mention of sage grouse being sighted in vicinity of the project in late winter.

Plaintiffs argue the sighting lends credence to their claim that the bird — formerly a candidate for Endangered Species Act protection — uses the area for over-wintering habitat.

“Wind-swept ridges are precisely the types of places you’d expect to find these



Capital Press graphic

birds in the winter,” said Peter Lacy, attorney for ONDA.

The environmentalists claim that BLM’s approval of the transmission line violated the National Environmental Policy Act because the agency didn’t specifically analyze whether the project area contained winter habitat for the species.

Instead, the agency extrapolated that sage grouse didn’t inhabit the area over winter from data collected at nearby sites, noting in its “environmental impact statement,” or EIS, that no birds were sighted after December.

Judge Fisher said this extrapolation was based on error, since the record of evidence shows that a consultant observed four sage grouse in the area during a visit in February.

“There is a factual misstatement that appears in the EIS,” he said. “I don’t know how you get around that.”

Judge Berzon also seemed troubled by the BLM’s mistake, saying that if the agency is going to extrapolate, then the extrapolation should be based on particularly solid data.

ConAgra plans \$30 million Boardman expansion

EAGLE, Idaho — ConAgra Foods, Inc. announced Friday that its Lamb Weston processing facility will expand operations in Boardman, Ore.

The \$30 million investment will add additional processing capacity for making formed products such as hash brown patties and potato puffs. The addition of the line at the company’s existing facility is expected to add 50 jobs to the 390 people already employed by the company in Boardman.

With continued increase in demand for frozen potato and

formed products, this capacity expansion is necessary to fulfill Lamb Weston’s global growth projections, according to a press release from the company.

Construction of the processing line is expected to begin this spring, with completion in 2017. The added line will increase processing capacity by approximately 50 million pounds.

“With the frozen potato category growing globally, we have tremendous opportunity to support our customers’ growth in the U.S. and around the world,” said Lamb Weston President Greg Schlafer in a press release.

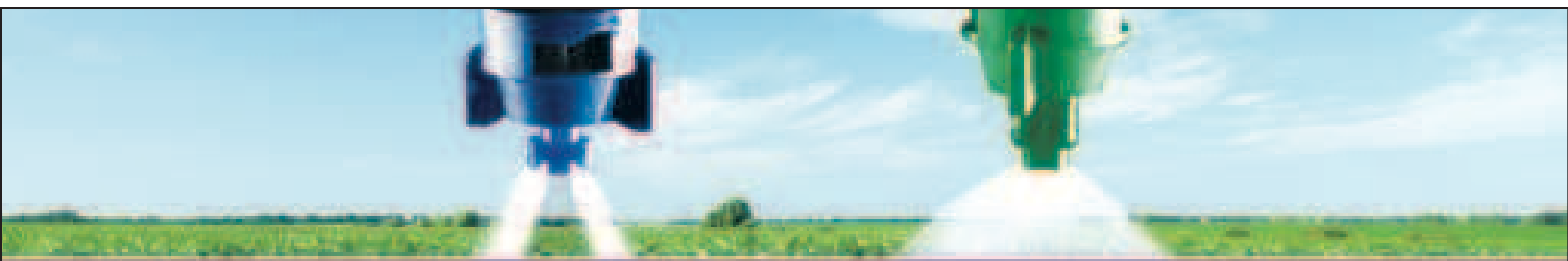
“To capture that growth, we need to make more products. Expanding our operations in the Columbia Basin — with access to great potatoes, people and ports — just makes sense.”

The facility in Boardman is close to growing, storage and shipping operations, with easy access to the Port of Morrow. The company opened an initial expansion of the facility in June 2014, adding 300 million pounds of capacity with a new fry line. That \$200 million project included plans for the addition announced Friday.

“Lamb Weston’s planned

expansion shows their continued commitment to the Port of Morrow, Boardman and the Mid-Columbia region as the right place to do business,” said Gary Neal, general manager of the Port of Morrow. “Their ongoing investments add good paying jobs to our region and we are fortunate to have such great partners at the Port.”

Lamb Weston employs approximately 4,500 people at a corporate office and seven manufacturing facilities in the Columbia Basin, and operates 22 manufacturing facilities in North America, Europe and China.



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2	Turbo TeeJet® (TT-200)	Two	Medium to Coarse	Liberty®/Contact Herbicide
3	Air Induction Extended Range (AER)	Single	Coarse to Very Coarse	2,4-D/Roundup®/Dicamba
4	Air Induction (AIRC)	Single	Very Coarse to Extremely Coarse	2,4-D/Roundup®/Dicamba
5	Air Induction Turbo TeeJet® (TT-200)	Two	Very Coarse to Extremely Coarse	Roundup®/Dicamba
6	Turbo TeeJet Induction (TTI)	Single	Extremely Coarse to Ultra Coarse	Roundup®/Dicamba



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