

OUR VIEW

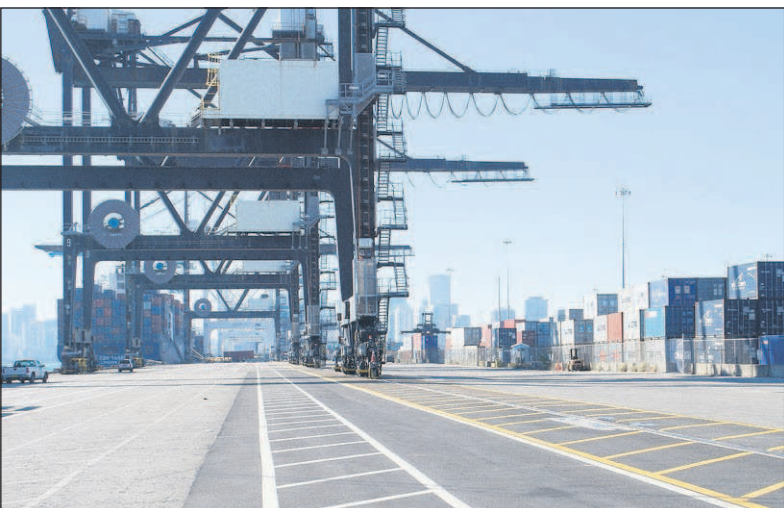
Is there a method to Trump’s trade madness?

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this week that the Trump administration is quietly talking with China in an attempt to work out differences and dial down trade tensions.

During the campaign Donald Trump made hay by poking the Chinese and other trade partners. The administration slapped tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

It would be disingenuous to suggest that other administrations haven’t rattled the tariff saber. President Obama hit the Chinese with tariffs on tires to help domestic tire manufacturers. President George W. Bush, like Trump, slapped tariffs on imported steel to boost U.S. manufacturers.

In both cases, the targeted domestic industries benefited



Pork Checkoff
U.S. farmers worry they will be caught in the trade crossfire between the U.S. and China.

briefly from those actions. In both cases targeted countries took action against U.S. exports, particularly agricultural goods. Farmers lost out.

China is pushing back against the steel tariffs with a list of tariffs of its own on \$3 billion worth of agricultural and steel products. Pork, nuts, cherries,

citrus and apples are among those targeted.

Agricultural products, mostly pork but also including apples, oranges, cherries, grapes and nuts, account for \$2.2 billion of the total. China’s retaliatory list includes \$228 million in almonds, walnuts, pistachios and macadamia nuts. It includes \$170 million in cherries \$88 million in citrus, \$41 million in grapes, \$36.7 million in apples, \$26 million in plums, \$2 million in strawberries and \$1.6 million in pears.

Farmers stand to lose again. “Obviously China is a big market for us and we are disappointed with the retaliation,” said Todd Fryhover, president of the Washington Apple Commission. The tariff will be 15

percent on top of the current 10 percent duty, he said.

All of this comes as farmers and ranchers in the Pacific Northwest who depend on trade have found themselves left out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact and left wondering how they will be impacted by the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

But now the Chinese and the U.S. are talking. Also this week South Korea agreed to a new trade deal to avoid the Trump steel tariffs. So, maybe there’s a method in the administration’s madness and a path to fair and free trade.

Farmers and ranchers already suffering from generally low commodity prices are wise to be wary.

Readers’ views

Washington elk need real management

Why did the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Commission release its proposed North Cascade Elk Herd Plan (NCEHP) without legal public notice in local newspapers or DFW’s website?

Why have DFW and the tribes proposed to enlarge the NCEHP habitat area to include all of Skagit County’s agricultural, rural lands and residences and cities/towns from Padilla Bay and Shorelines east to I-5 without Skagit County and city/town officials’ knowledge? With a major plan area expansion why would DFW think they could bypass a full legal environmental impact statement process? The current NCEHP area is east of I-5 and north of Highway 20. Why is there no evidence or data provided showing need for expansion?

Farms and homes south of Highway 20 not included in NCEHP suffer the most elk-caused damages. Estimates indicate there is over \$303,000 in elk-caused damage each year to over 30 agriculture-related properties in the east county, another \$234,000 in damages caused by elk to over 579 home residences each year, not counting 75-90 elk-vehicle collisions.

State law RCW77.04.012 mandates DFW not allow elk to infringe on the right of private property owners to control owners private property. Why don’t DFW/Tribes just obey state law?

Why have DFW/Tribes failed to include any survey of residences damaged by elk?

Why doesn’t NCEHP address the seriousness of elk spreading hoof rot? How do DFW/Tribes plan to immediately stop spreading of hoof rot to our dairy and livestock farms? Why is solution to this deadly animal cruelty not addressed in plan?

Why do DFW/Tribes continue to rely on farmers to feed their mismanaged elk herds that now reside on agriculture farmlands without compensation? Doesn’t this NCEHP draft demonstrate DFW/Tribes’ complete lack of knowledge and ability to manage elk? Are high school animal science classes needed for DFW?

Randy Good
Sedro Woolley, Wash.

Trump knows how to negotiate

I think your thoughts on TPP (the Trans-Pacific Partnership) are a little off.

I have no doubt that if the U.S. wants in, the rest of the countries would let that happen. Yes, we export a lot of ag products to some of those countries. But don’t forget they as a whole export a lot of manufactured products to the U.S. They need the U.S. dollar for their economy.

Trump knows how to negotiate. He understands the U.S. strength, the money.

Donald Wirth
Shedd, Ore.

Climate change science still unsettled

This letter is in response to a recent letter in Readers’ Views suggesting that “climate change science can’t be ignored.” I agree! The debate seems to revolve around whose brand of “science” the American public can trust. The writer seems to believe that man’s release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is causing the planet’s climate to change. I, like many others, disagree. These thoughts are not my own but are shared by a significant number of others, including many credible scientists studying the earth’s climate change.

For those who may think that the science on climate change is settled, I would suggest reading “Dark Winter” or “Cold Sun,” both authored by John Casey, a former NASA scientist, or numerous well-written articles by Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D., found in Range magazine, www.rangemagazine.com.

Enacting draconian laws and regulations based on unsettled science is unmitigated folly. Heavy-handed laws and regulations intended to stop climate change will have a devastating impact

Climate assertions must be accompanied by adequate facts

A March 2 letter expressed sympathy for the “average citizen not appreciating the science and hard facts behind ... global warming,” and asserted that others who questioned it were simply denying reality. The writer allowed that we were well-meaning but misled.

I take exception to this condescending and inaccurate letter.

Some of us are, well, not average — well-educated, scientifically literate, and not persuaded to the reigning orthodoxy. We do not just “label things we don’t want to be true as fake news or fake science.” We carefully study assertions and issues, and don’t like what we see. I note that the letter is pure assertion, with no evidence or sources.

Already as a young field scientist, I was aware of global warming. I grew up on the glacial moraine of Western Pennsylvania, studying the northward movement of austral avian species, and noticed (how perceptive of me!) that there were no longer glaciers there. Global warming, and cooling, comes and goes historically. Over the years, I have watched “scientists” (like Al Gore?) make dire predictions, which did not come true (the test of prophecy is waiting).

They have long since been discredited, by one false prediction after another, but continue to make predictions and advocate changes to save the planet. Somehow, all their proposals have the same direction, apart from making their proponents rich: they excuse other nations, but require immense financial burdens self-imposed on the United States. Both the Kyoto Agreement and the Paris Climate Accords were alike in this, and both rejected by the U.S. Government/Congress because they not only made no difference, but they harmed the U.S. while excusing other nations (who wanted their “chance to pollute”). They were exercises in morality and politics, not science.

Polar bears are doing fine. Sea levels are not significantly rising. “Rising” global temperatures have stagnated and not obeyed the

on the economy and, subsequently, jobs.

The Washington State Senate recently turned down SB 6203, a carbon tax bill strongly supported by Gov. Jay Inslee. This bill, if passed, would have resulted in a progressive tax on carbon dioxide, eventually reaching \$30 per ton. The bill would have destroyed jobs and industry and further burdened the citizens of the state with the highest gasoline tax in the nation. This has been a relentless effort on the part of Inslee and his supporters. Washingtonians wisely turned down a similar carbon tax initiative in 2016.

It seems that a necessary precursor to elected officials enacting laws and regulations would be a consensus reached by qualified scientists on both sides of the issue. It’s important to remember that a degree of liberty is lost every time a law or regulation is enacted. This reality is even more egregious when the law or regulation fails to achieve its intended goal.

Richard Cahill
Port Angeles, Wash.

predictions. Arctic and Antarctic ice are doing fine: How ironic that ships sent to study global warming keep getting trapped in excess ice!

Capital Press readers are, many of them, both practical farmers and thoughtful scientists, who value the earth. They have seen too many false scares, from Alar to “carcinogenic” Round-Up, to trust the “scientists,” too often only “environmental advocates,” who seem to hate farming, the U.S., and even humans. They see, as Michael Crichton warned us in “State of Fear,” that “environmentalists” often have other agendas, including self-serving ones and ones not dictated by good science. Too many environmentalists and government people seem to hate agriculture, and show little respect for facts or rights, as Capital Press readers have seen over and over, with the regulatory nightmares of federal and state agencies.

So, don’t write generally. Pick an issue and go right to the “science,” so that we can evaluate the merits of your assertion, and not simply record your condescension for those who do not “submit.”

Alan L. Gallagher
Canby, Ore.

Renewable fuels gain ground in D.C.

The debate surrounding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has intensified and become much more complex recently. The efforts of a handful of oil refineries to portray the RFS as an unfair law to their bottom lines has attracted political opportunists like Sen. Ted Cruz to fight on their side. In times like these, when the opposition ramps up considerably, we must reflect on how lucky we are to have great biofuel champions in industry, Congress and the White House and encourage them to keep up the fight.

An eastern coast oil refiner’s downfall was the perfect opportunity for oil lobbyists and Sen. Cruz to exploit. Sen. Cruz has campaigned for months to reform the RIN (Renewable Identification Number) system and has held the

confirmation of Bill Northey to his U.S. Department of Agriculture position hostage until he got what he wanted. He argued on behalf of the oil industry, who only want to see the RFS weakened and their control of the pump strengthened. If their plans ever came into fruition, it would come at the cost of farmers’ already seeing declining incomes and hard-working employees at over 200 biorefineries across the country.

Thankfully, Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst have been there every step of the way to combat these attacks. At a biofuels meeting in the White House last week, they represented farmers and biorefinery workers everywhere in defending the RFS and seeing that Northey was finally confirmed to his USDA position, where he’ll join the Iowan senators’ fight to promote American biofuels.

With more biofuel meetings with President Trump on the horizon, it’s now more critical than ever that our leaders in Congress know that this is exactly the kind of farm-friendly, pro-biofuels work we wished of them when we cast our vote for President Trump.

Kraig Hoene
Lebanon, Ore.

Chinook salmon ‘shrinking’

I recently read that Chinook salmon are becoming progressively smaller. I made the same observation last fall while watching salmon returning to the Bonneville hatchery. Fisheries scientists are of the opinion that orcas and sea lions find the bigger fish to be easier prey. They are probably right, but I think there may be another cause no one is considering.

I grew up on fish hatcheries with a father who worked for 43 years for the Oregon State Fish Commission before they merged with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife. These early managers felt their primary purpose was to produce fish for the commercial market. My father and most of the managers I knew were dedicated to improving numbers and size of fish. They felt

their size could be improved by using larger fish for brood stock. I witnessed the size of the salmon at the Ox Bow Hatchery gradually increase from 1943 to 1969.

Near the end of that period of time I witnessed my Dad in a heated discussion with a young biologist who was asking my Dad to use some smaller males. Dad would use males that were mostly over 40 pounds. The biologist was concerned that these large fish might be 7-year-old fish. My Dad’s response was, if in seven years I have more fish return than I have this year I will have done my job. He usually did. If they are bigger, that would be a bonus. He also responded, I raise cattle and I don’t use runts to breed my cows.

A couple of weeks after I first stopped to watch the fish running at Bonneville, I returned to watch how they spawned the fish. They were using smaller males. I don’t think I saw a single fish that would weigh 40 pounds. In my Dad’s final years at Ox Bow Hatchery I observed a number of fish over 50 pounds. The Ox Bow fish were originally from Bonneville.

Carlisle Harrison
Hermiston, Ore.

Census questions infringe on rights

By now all have received and reviewed the farm census. In reaching Section 7, I did a double-take. Maybe it’s my perception, but please tell me what the question, Who was involved in the decisions on this operation? has to do with farming. Likewise their, or anyone’s, ages, their race, or if they were on active military duty.

Just what has this to do with farming?

The same intrusion appeared in the 10-year federal census, as I recall. Questions like the ages of the house occupants, their salaries, how many rooms in the dwelling, etc.

These are over and above and unneeded information for the count of lives.

The more information they can obtain, the more control they can exert, and our rights and liberties are lost.

As Americans governed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, our liberties and rights are guaranteed. Maybe it would behoove all of us to review and study these documents and be vocal and pro-active, as it seems our nation is moving to another path and trampling these rights.

Like you, I have worked hard and long for the land I own and will be vocal and defend the rights and liberties that are guaranteed to the lot of us.

How about you? Will you take a stand and be vocal? Our future depends on it. Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

Ben Franklin said, “A nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins.”

Mrs. M. Novak
Yamhill, Ore.