

# Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post  
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## Barbur Concept Plan approves unmuffled jake brake noise

Thanks for your involvement in the Barbur Plan as a citizen.

Unfortunately Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) have chosen not to address the extreme and unnecessary noise from *unmuffled jake brakes* on Interstate 5 and more recently on Barbur Boulevard by container trucks.

One could view this as the lowest hanging fruit for improvements conducive for private development.

You may have seen the UNMUFFLED BRAKE signs as you enter small communities throughout Oregon.

Only through the Freedom of Information Act was I provided information of the South Portland neighborhood signing many petitions brought to ODOT to stop.

This is what I was told to do again even though ODOT refuses to put up

signs in the corridor-- ignoring citizen concerns or safety.

I have complained many times and had tried to voice concerns of unmitigated loss of over 1000 trees during the logging for the Iowa Street overpass on Interstate 5.

New trees have been planted so that ivy has a trellis to grow on since no removal of ivy or other invasives were done. Without proper remediation the trees will simply be infested with ivy and need to be replanted and deferring relief.

You may witness the ivy sails that still remain in the trees.

I have witnessed elk, bald eagles, deer herds, coyote, cougar, vultures and chicken hawks in "The Woods".

As a resident of "The Woods" I have seen the recent loss of songbirds because of this noise and suspect the raptors and I will soon follow.

I have copied the e-mail participants in the Barbur Concept Plan.

Interestingly only 130 citizens received e-mails, while 50 non-profits were e-mailed.

Unlike a public vetting, I'm sure they were set up as an exhibit, effectively removing any other public from hearing opposite view points or contention.

I was one on the list that did not attend and could not find answers from the City as to when and where these meetings were to take place. (Any of my time and contributions were not included).

If you were not in attendance, your feedback and any other observations you wish to share would be greatly appreciated.

I hope that you are all outraged

that citizens can be bullied and manipulated by the public agencies and attended the City Hall meeting regarding the approval of this flawed process the 24th of April.

Tell these agencies we deserve a little sleep.

*Kris Schade  
Southwest Portland*

## House Republicans block bill to raise \$275 million from richest Oregonians

Yesterday [April 24] the House Republicans, working with special interest groups, attempted to block a vital component of our state budget: the \$275 million in revenue we need in order to stabilize schools and other vital services.

This money would be raised by reducing certain tax breaks for the richest 2.4 percent of Oregonians and fewer than 3 percent of corporations.

Instead of giving our children the quality education they deserve, keeping our streets safe and our safety net intact, House Republicans decided to protect wealthy campaign donors and big business.

Because of their opposition, we were only able to move ahead with a small, but vital, component of our tax plan: a provision that ends the practice of hiding money in offshore

accounts in the Cayman Islands and other offshore "tax havens."

This will raise about \$18 million over the next two years - not nearly enough to reverse the brutal cuts our schools and critical services have been facing.

But we are not going to give in or give up. We are now about halfway through the session, and no matter how many votes it takes, I am determined to find the money to fund our schools.

You sent me here to fight for our children, and that is what I am going to do.

I call on members of the Senate and House from both sides of the aisle to join with me and show the leadership needed to ensure that corporations and the wealthiest Oregonians are paying their fair share for schools and the services we all rely on.

Because if we don't, we are all going to pay the price in the form of bigger classes, worse roads, and fewer police officers. And I am not going to settle for a less educated, less connected and less safe Oregon.

Our state deserves better than that, you deserve better than that.

*Margaret Doherty  
Tigard*

Editor's Note: Rep. Margaret Doherty (Democrat-35) is one of three legislators representing the Multnomah neighborhood in the Oregon House of Representatives.

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