



PARTIAL DEMOLITION was conducted last week at Pizza Pit in Downtown Cave Junction in front of Shop Smart Food Warehouse. The restaurant incurred major damage on July 1 when a large RV towing a car smashed into it. Four people in the RV were injured. Restaurateur Bob Humpheys is anxious to reopen, and an announcement is forthcoming. (Photos by Illinois Valley News)

Alternative energy sources supported by DeFazio

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) recently voted in favor of two major energy bills, HR 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act, and the tax code-focused HR 2776, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act.

These bills were approved 241-172; 221-189.

Importantly, HR 3221 includes a provision drafted by DeFazio that opens the door to a long-term extension of the county payments program. This is seen as occurring when a conference committee is established this fall to iron out the differences between the House- and Senate-passed energy bills.

“This legislation will help move America toward a sustainable energy future with less reliance on foreign oil,” said DeFazio.

“It’s a future that prioritizes domestic sources of energy like biofuels and wind, solar and ocean power over foreign sources of energy.

“It’s a future that prioritizes clean, renewable sources of energy over polluting sources of energy be-

cause our nation and our planet can no longer afford the dig, drill, build and burn energy policy pushed by the president, his allies in Congress and big oil companies.

“The sustained focus on clean energy provided by this legislation will create new industries and jobs here at home, combat global warming and begin to free our country from the strangle of foreign energy,” said DeFazio.

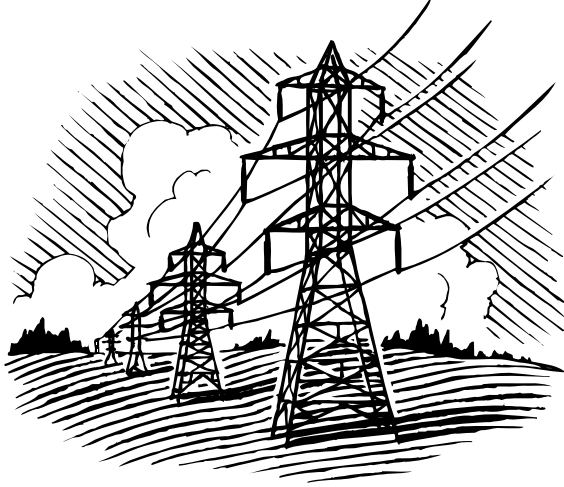
“I opposed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which was pushed by President Bush, Dick Cheney and the fossil fuel industry,” said DeFazio. “That legislation provided billions in taxpayer funded subsidies to the coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear industries.

“It also increased our reliance on OPEC and other foreign producers of oil.”

The congressman continued, “The approved energy bills include a variety of provisions to expand production of renewable fuels like cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel. Oregon is well

positioned to become a major producer of these alternative fuels from its farms and forests.

“The bill contains a biomass provision I crafted that will promote the use of



materials thinned for fuel reduction and forest health to create biofuels or electricity.

“The bill also will improve the energy efficiency of appliances; provide financial aid to improve the energy efficiency of small businesses; bolster research into solar, geothermal and ocean energy; create new incentives to improve the energy efficiency of government buildings and those in the private sector, among many other pro-

visions to promote renewable energy, conservation and energy efficiency,”

He said that the efficiency standards alone in the bill will remove as much as 10 billion tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by 2030, more than the annual emissions of all of the cars on the road in America today.

Additionally, HR 2776 extends through 2012 the renewable energy production tax credit (PTC), which has spurred investments in wind, solar, biomass and other renewable technologies that are producing energy today. The bill also makes ocean power eligible for the PTC, which will help promote this renewable resource off the Oregon coast.

“The PTC is critical for the economic viability of renewable energy projects,” said DeFazio. “And the bill extends through 2016 the energy tax credit for investment in solar energy and fuel cells.”

Biscuit Fire study; natural regeneration reduced fire effects

(Continued from page 9)

on almost 45,000 acres of the Biscuit Fire that had also burned 15 years earlier.

Among its conclusions: *Areas that burned severely during 1987 tended to reburn at high severity during 2002.

*Areas unaffected by the initial fire tended to burn at the lowest severities in '02.

The findings are consistent with studies showing that site history influences

fire severity, and that conifer plantations are associated with high severity fire. There are some potential environmental and management implications of the research, Thompson said.

“If we do have a warmer climate that leads to increasing frequency of wildfire in this region a positive feedback of high severity reburns may favor plant species more able to deal with that regime --

manzanita, ceanothus or tan oak -- that could displace conifer forests,” he said.

Managers may have few options to reduce the risk of future high-severity fire within areas that have experienced recent severe burns.

Typical fuel treatments such as thinning do not have much effect on fire risk in young forests, Thompson said. There are continuing experiments within the Bis-

cuit Fire region to test the effectiveness of fuel breaks for slowing the spread of severe fires.

The study was funded by the Joint Fire Science Program, a partnership of six federal wildland, fire and research organizations, established in 1998 to provide scientific information and support for fuel and fire management programs.

Cash to combat crank coming, says Walden

Some \$375,000 in federal funding for the Oregon Partnership to combat methamphetamine abuse will be forthcoming.

Congressmen Greg Walden (R-Second District), Darlene Hooley (D-Fifth District), Earl Blumenauer (D-Third District), and David Wu (D-First District) made the announcement jointly. The Oregon members secured the federal investment in the fiscal year 2008 Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Act (H.R. 3093).

Oregon Partnership will use the funds to operate Target Meth Oregon, “a statewide multipronged strategy that empowers citizen leaders, parents, business and faith leaders, and youth to take back their communities from meth abuse.”

The program will publish a community organizing guide, produce localized anti-meth advertisements, and operate a 24/7 Crisis Line accessible from throughout the state. The funding also will be used to produce Youth Voices/Youth Choices, “an innovative student-driven film project providing students the opportunity to write and produce their own documentary on methamphetamine abuse.”

“Across the state, Oregon Partnership educates

local leaders on how to identify meth abuse and production in their communities, and provides creative drug prevention programs that speak directly to Oregon's youth,” said Walden.

“The far-reaching effects of meth on human life and the environment are tremendously devastating, and the federal investment we secured in the House will help Oregon Partnership continue to lead the fight against this terrible scourge.

“I stand with the rest of the delegation and Oregon Partnership in continuing to make the campaign against meth a top priority for the state.”

Said Hooley, a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight & Control Methamphetamine, “Never in my three decades of public service have I seen a problem more pervasive or damaging than the meth epidemic.

“Meth started as a West Coast drug, but it’s spreading across the country like wildfire, destroying families and devastating communities in its wake. Identity theft and other crimes associated with meth abuse continue to threaten our economy.

“Only with a united front we will be able to stop this epidemic.”

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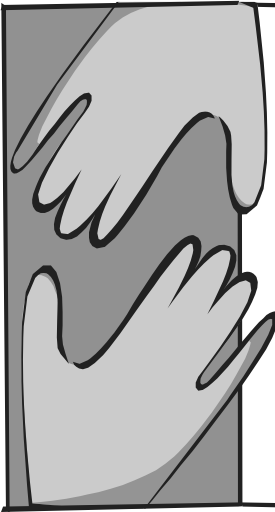


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