

nious, passive-aggressive, intolerant crybabies with you.

Rodney C. Cimburke Jr.
Cottage Grove

KEEP THE VIEW

When I came to Oregon in the early 1970s as a child, there were no houses on the hills and ridgelines around Eugene. I was struck then by Oregon's rugged beauty. Today, in my neighborhood of Peaceful Valley alone, there are over five houses built on the hilltops and ridgetops in this small rural residential community. Now there is a proposed zoning change that would allow another house to be built on top of a hill. And this is not just any hill; it is the most prominent hilltop and ridgeline in all of the area.

Lane Code 16.252 Procedures for Zoning, Rezoning, and Amendments to Requirements Rural Comprehensive Plan states, "Zonings, rezonings ... shall not be contrary to the public interest." I say that this zoning change is contrary to the public interest because:

1) It will lead to a further visual clutter of our cherished Oregon scenery.

2) The forest management plan does not preclude the use of chemicals, only saying they would be used with a "last resort philosophy."

3) Rezoning such a large property through clever resurveying of the 80 acres closest to rural residential zoned properties is also contrary to the public's interest.

4) Since the easement access was modified to allow for up to 10 residences in the future, one wonders if the applicants will pursue further rezoning at a later date to build more houses.

I clearly see how rezoning is in the personal interests of the rezoning applicants, Tom Lininger and Merle Weiner, I do not see how it is in the public interest. In fact rezoning is clearly contrary to the public's interest. I, along with 29 other people, have signed a petition against this proposed rezoning. These are the people who live in the communities of Peaceful Valley and Fox Hollow. We strongly urge the hearings official and the Board of County Commissioners to reject this proposed zoning change.

Hal Hermanson
Eugene

BRAIN DUMP

Sometimes I need to purge my collective opinion bank.

1. Mid-term elections. Thank Jefferson democracy is still alive.

2. Gratuitous misuse of the term "eco-terrorist." That is a word which should be reserved for politicians who continually sell out natural resources that we citizens hold as our birthright (or as the natives considered it,

their backyard). Perhaps eco-rebellion would be more appropriate.

3. Education in Oregon. Always amusing to have conservative Republicans bang the drum of education when *everyone in this state* knows that it will be the first thing screwed by conservatives. Maybe it is time to examine the kicker refund or possibly some kind of tax reform so that education is not solely reliant on income tax.

4. *Eugene Weekly*. The *EW* letters are essentially a paper blog for the same dozen or so people (Hinojosa, Strain, Tattersall, etc.). I don't mind the input, but could we have a little more variety, or could you just hire these guys so they could provide as much editorial optimism as Alan Pittman?

5. New name for the federal building: How about the Klingon High Command? I dare someone to hang a big sardine tin key off the side of the building.

6. Iraq: I really, really, hate to say it but if you voted for the current dumb-ass for president in 2004, then the blood of the people who have died is on your hands. But you are forgiven for being duped. Now let's deal with it. We should get out of there ASAP.

7. We live in a city that is a beacon of sustainability. If you don't think so, then you've never been anywhere else. Get on your bike and ride. Supporting sustainability and biodiversity is our only chance.

Davy Ray
Eugene

SORRY, M OF C!

I am an employee at a local natural foods store, and I love my job. It is the best job I have ever had, morally, socially and economically.

I love it so much that I found myself today talking badly about another local natural foods store, Market of Choice. I said some very mean things while at work, and now I am somewhat ashamed of what I did. I forgot that Market of Choice, like so many other great stores in Eugene, is a local store. Its most distant location is less than two hours away. It sells local goods and adds a lot of money to the local economy, unlike stores merely paying minimum wages and sending the rest elsewhere.

In my studies I have read a lot about sustainability, and I take pride in my community's efforts towards a sustainable economy. I try to live as sustainably as possible, and I find it very difficult when we have already dug our hole so deep. But I see steps being taken, and I like what I see. And I think that if every store was as local as Market of Choice, we would be taking more steps towards our end goal: to live in harmony with our own environment.

Andrew Harmon
Eugene



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