

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

to connect to Alder Street, a purported "bicycle boulevard." Caution: No bicyclist has actually been known to attempt this solo. Proceed at your own risk.

The stimulus package projects include new bike pathways and funding for a Safe Routes to School program. We've made design mistakes in the past, but it's never too late to change and build infrastructure that caters to sustainable, healthful transportation modes.

*Tuula Rebhahn
Eugene*

CAP AND DIVIDEND

Erin Noble's Viewpoint on cap and trade (6/4) neglected to explore a few other options. Cap and dividend would accomplish much the same thing except that it would require that all emission allowances be sold at auction and the revenue given back in equal shares to the American people. This is similar to what climate scientist James Hansen of NASA recommends: Placing a blanket tax on all fossil fuels at the mine, wellhead or port of entry and then giving the money back in equal shares to the American people.

The money paid out by polluters would finally begin to reflect the true environmental and social costs which they have been able to externalize all these years. Americans embrace the idea that there is "no free lunch" and would be open to the idea that polluters should pay something approximating the true cost of their pollution.

A tax imposed on pollution and then given back to the American people would be revenue-neutral, so "conservatives" wouldn't be able to complain about raising taxes.

Meanwhile we'd all get a check in the mail every month. Those using lots of fossil fuels would pay a tax liability while those using fewer fossil fuels would receive a net tax benefit. Those families who don't drive a car and live a relatively modest, environmentally balanced lifestyle would be rewarded for their exemplary behavior by paying fewer taxes.

Of course, the major media aren't talking about these ideas, but if the American people knew that they would receive a check every month, there would be strong support for some kind of cap and dividend or revenue-neutral carbon tax.

*Robert Bolman
Eugene*

BACK AT YOU, NASH

In response to "In Defense of Daniel" (6/11). First off, let me just say to A.F. Nash that I am just an ordinary person. I am a stay-at-home mother of two with a high school diploma and a very limited amount of life experience under my belt from which I form my personal opinions. I do not have a degree in journalism, nor do I support my local law enforcement for the purpose of gaining favor or influence.

In my letter (5/28), I was merely responding to the judgment expressed by Kursten Hogard (letters, 5/14). My point, which was apparently overlooked by Nash, was that one should not judge a book by its cover, so to speak. I merely wrote an example of an activist, Daniel McGowan, who chose to take part in a crime in order to achieve his environmentalist point. I was not implying that McGowan is a bad person. I never placed any judgment on him as a human being or his personal accomplishments to the world that we live in. I was simply stating that we are all our own people, with our own thoughts and feelings. It's not fair to judge someone solely based on the uniform that they wear or the labels that society puts on one another.

In my letter I wrote that some people might say that McGowan's actions as an environmental activist could have been perceived as being dangerous. I did read the entire article written in *Democracy Now* (June 11, 2007), and did note that they took extreme precautions in order to harm no human being, but there is still the unknown danger at stake, such as the safety of the firemen's lives.

*Mary Mainenti
Eugene*

ALTERNATIVE BIRTHING

I am writing in response to recent articles regarding the closing of Peace Health's Birthing Center. While it is unfortunate that the facility is closing, thankfully, there are many alternative birthing options in Eugene.

Sacred Waters Birthing Center is a fully operational, free-standing birthing center. There are many of these centers, like Sacred Waters, that are licensed by the state of Oregon and staffed by trained professionals who are experts in out-of-hospital birth settings. I invite expecting families who are looking into an alternative holistic approach in birthing to seek out the support of their



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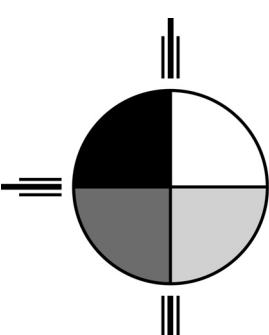
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