

and motivate. The East Coast's gain is surely our loss.

However, a letter writer in the same edition whose departure would most certainly benefit Oregonians is Republican State Senator and Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli. In contrast to Schlossberg, a dedicated conservationist and patriot, Ferrioli is a conservative, committed to protecting plunderers and polluters.

With all the serious issues facing Oregonians from health care to unemployment, how did the Republican minority leader use his opportunity to communicate to the public? He whined about a handful of non-violent activists protesting environmental destruction. The

anti-environment, anti-choice, anti-family, anti-science, anti-government, anti-regulation, greed-based, pro-corporate Republican philosophy has and continues to hurt Oregon and the rest of life on Earth. It is unfortunate, but the truth is, Ferrioli and the Republican Party have become complete pathetic and embarrassing obstructions to progress.

Joshua Welch
Eugene

TOTAL SOCIALISM

Over my lifetime, I have watched personal liberty and freedom slowly ebb away by what appeared to be reasonable explanations about what was "for the public

good" from our federal government.

But I am horrified to see how quickly, in the last few months, the federal government has encroached on so many of our individual rights and freedoms — to the point of total socialism. Perhaps the former Soviet leader, Khrushchev, was right when he said that America "won't accept communism outright, but we'll keep feeding you small doses of socialism until you'll finally wake up and find you already have communism."

Our own government now wants to force me to have health care, pay even more taxes, limit the amount of money I can make, limit the size of car I drive and not allow me to choose the school my child

attends. What on Earth has happened to the Land of the Free?

I am exasperated that so many people seem to swallow this without thought. I encourage others to call, email, fax and personally visit their state and federal senators and representatives to express their opposition to anything that expands government.

I don't consider myself an activist, but I will gladly join the ranks from 11 am to 12:30 pm Sept. 12 at the Capitol Steps in Salem in a show of numbers supporting the March on Washington, D.C., on that same day to protest taxes, the socialization of our nation and violations of our Constitution. See www.marchonsalem.com

Dane Smith
Springfield

EDITOR'S NOTE: The quote from Nikita Khrushchev is a fake, according to the book *They Never Said It* by Paul Boller and John George.

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. E-mail to letters@eugeneweekly.com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.

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