

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the desert and over some mountains to the Columbia River near The Dalles.

*F. Del Helm
Eugene*

AND THE POOR SUFFER

The Seneca biomass-fired generator (cover story, 5/12) is profitable, not economically sustainable, because the company, owned by perhaps the wealthiest man in Lane County, Aaron Jones, is planning on a \$10 million tax break — half its investment — from the state government.

This is the Oregon government that is so broke it is cutting to the point of destroying programs that actually reduce the cost of services, provide living-wage jobs (such as home health care workers), put armies of volunteers in efficient service to the those whom no one else will help, and rescue families with children from desperate and dire straits.

The Seneca situation is somewhat analogous to the largest and most profitable corporation in the history of the world, Exxon Mobil, getting ongoing federal tax breaks, for doing what it does best — making rich people richer and poor people poorer.

Finally, if you think sending forest nutrients up an urban smokestack and into landfills while using enough water for 1,444 households is renewable or ecologically sustainable, the Oregon Joint Committee on Tax Credits would like to add you to their list of special (very special) interest supporters.

*Robert Beal
We the People — Eugene*

LACK OF FORESIGHT

Seneca, with the approval of the state of Oregon, wants to continue the practice of burning the chips, wood debris and even whole trees from the site of former clearcuts. Allowing unsustainable logging to take place is bad enough. Taking away biomass from the forests for any reason, (which when decomposed with the help of fungi, insects and microorganisms,) will be the foundation upon which the forest will re-grow, is lack of foresight. Without abundant vegetation to photosynthesize oxygen and consume CO₂, this planet will die. Furthermore, burning cellulose produces more greenhouse gases than burning coal.

There are some local politicians who call this method of producing electricity green or clean. I am referring to Mayor Piercy, Rep. DeFazio, Sen. Wyden and Gov. Kitzhaber. There are others who refer vaguely to the economy, but biomass provides fewer jobs than truly green sustainable forestry and energy production. To create electricity there are more modern and reliable methods. Using the power of the sun, wind and geothermal will get civilization simultaneously out of the energy crisis, climate change, war over resources and weak economy.

Putting solar collectors on every rooftop and spreading windmills out evenly to account for loss of power during transportation is the way to go. In this manner, we would have our energy needs met and wouldn't have to worry about the destruction of our forests.

*David Ivan Piccioni
Eugene*

DINOSAUR PARKING

It's encouraging that the UO is finally starting to consider more appropriate locations for their Riverfront Research Park expansion. It's depressing that they continue to cling to an unhealthy obsession with vast parking lots. Gas hit \$4 a gallon this week, and is going to go nowhere but up. Parking lots are for dinosaurs.

The Pacific Northwest is home to a growing number of 21st century construction projects. In Seattle, they are designing the super-green Cascadia Center for Sustainable Design and Construction. It will include facilities for lots of bicycles and a small pool of electric cars, but tenants will be expected to commute via bikes and public transit. Portland is planning the Oregon Sustainability Center, which provides just bicycle parking and street rail access. In beautiful downtown Eugene, LCC is busy building a green housing facility for 250 students. It will provide generous parking for bicycles and zero parking for cars. The building is located conveniently close to the city's totally amazing EmX system.

The UO is a world-class institution of higher learning. It wants to become a growing center for world-class research. So why design a 21st century facility surrounded by an asphalt pasture for ugly, smelly, stupid horseless carriages? If the Texas developer insists on building a weird anachronism, maybe it's time for a new developer — maybe a progressive Oregon developer, someone with their eyes on tomorrow, not yesterday (if expansion is truly necessary).

*Richard Reese
Eugene*

OLD ARGUMENTS

Thank you for publishing my Viewpoint, "Smells Fishy" in your April 21 issue. In light of Congressman DeFazio's reply, "Breaching Dams?" (5/5), and other feedback, I'd like to make a clarification.

In my opinion piece I summarized that the Northwest Power and Conservation Council determined the Northwest could meet its increased electricity needs over the next 20 years, remove the lower Snake River dams and retire all Northwest coal plants, and save on energy bills. This actually represents the findings from a related study called "Bright Future" by the Northwest Energy Coalition, an alliance of environmental, civic, and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses. The two plans differ on replacing the energy from the four lower Snake River dams. NPCC's analysis looked at energy replacement primarily through gas and coal, a proposal many conservation groups would never support. Instead, salmon and clean energy advocates call for the forward thinking found in "Bright Future."

There is a lot more to the story and fight for salmon in the Snake River Basin than can be discussed by DeFazio, or myself, in this forum about the pros and cons of dam removal. I stand by what I wrote: DeFazio seems clouded by old arguments on this issue. What is needed most right now is his political will to step away from supporting status quo hydro power operations and start embracing sustainable values that

Sunrise
Asian Food Market

Largest Selection of Asian Groceries
Seaweed, rice, noodles, frozen products, deli, snacks, drinks, sauces, spices, produce, housewares, and more.

We carry groceries from Holland, India, Pakistan and Polynesia
Sushi & Asian deli take-out

Woodfield Station SHOPPING CENTER
29TH AVENUE

OAK STREET
WILLAMETTE STREET

Sunrise

www.sunriseasianfood.com
M-Th 9am-7pm • F 9am-8pm • Sa 9am-7pm • Su 10am-6pm
70 W. 29th Ave. Eugene • 541-343-3295

RON'S ISLAND GRILL
FAMOUS FOR HAWAIIAN TERIYAKI

Open Everyday 11am to 9pm

DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME OR OFFICE STARTS SOON

CATER WITH RON'S
Great Prices • Short Notice
Open Everyday • All Events

4 GREAT EUGENE LOCATIONS
2506 Willakenzie Rd. | 342-3006
55 W. 29th | 344-5880
1249 Alder St (Campus) | 344-1960
401 W. 3rd Ave. | 344-3324 (M-F 11am-4pm)

Celebrating 12 Years!

Stylish Comfort



Dazzle your friends and co-workers in these cute and comfortable sandals by prlvo.

Follow Your Feet to Footwise

FOOTWISE

SANDALS SHOES CLOGS BOOTS

181 E Broadway • Downtown Eugene • 541.342-6107
301 SW Madison • Downtown Corvallis • 541.757-0875
Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 11-5 • www.footwise.com

Haul of FAME
local fashion discoveries

Buffalo EXCHANGE
New & Recycled Fashion

BUY SELL TRADE

131 E. 5th Av. 687-2805

BUFFALOEXCHANGE.COM