

the opportunity to excel and worked to make that happen.

Sorenson spoke out in favor of the effort to raise additional funds and voted for it. I applaud Sorenson's dedicated service on the Lane County Commission and his commitment to our children. I support him for another term on the commission.

*Hillary Johnson
Eugene*

HONESTY & INTEGRITY

When I bought a home in the River Road area, I factored into my decision that Rob Handy was a neighborhood advocate. I had seen him in action at neighborhood meetings and at meetings involving larger county issues. I was impressed. When he asked me to be the treasurer of his 2008 campaign for county commissioner, I could only intuit that he was a man of honesty and integrity. After the campaign and his successful election, I knew he embodied those qualities. After reading the tiny print and sifting through the innuendo these past four years, I still know he is a man of honesty and integrity, still tireless and hardworking.

When I faced the daunting prospect of a cell phone tower being built in my Veneta area neighborhood, only one county commissioner (not my own) did not marginalize my efforts to see the county effect a county-wide telecommunications ordinance. That commissioner was Pete Sorenson. That first measure of support and success taught me that everyone can make a difference. Thank you, Commissioner Sorenson.

Both Commissioners Handy and Sorenson deserve the votes of their constituents (of whom I am not one).

*Mona Linstromberg
Tidewater*

VALUABLE INCUMBENT

I have known Pete Sorenson for many decades personally and in his capacity as a community leader and public official. He has always been a dedicated and trustworthy public servant. I was surprised to read about the lawsuit instigated against him and fellow Commissioner Rob Handy by political opponents lead by a Republican former county commissioner and by wealthy conservative lumber interests.

The ruling on the case by a Coos County judge was certainly an innovative interpretation of the Oregon Open Meetings Law. I am very familiar with this law because I have served as chair of two local public bodies. The ruling does not conform to my understanding of the law or the understanding of other legal experts. It probably would have been overturned if it had been appealed.

To my surprise, it seems that there are some who want to pull the rug from under Pete and support his opponent based on this controversial ruling. Pete's many years of service and commitment to progressive ideals is being completely disregarded. Why are we being urged to vote against an experienced incumbent with a long history of service based on charges concocted by his opponents who want to remove him from office? A vote against Pete assures the success of these opponents in their endeavors.

We need the assertive and progressive voice of Sorenson on a board dominated

by a super-conservative majority. We don't need someone who wants to "get along." Let us keep Pete on the board.

*Munir Katul
Eugene*

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Thank you for your excellent article about the DeFazio forest plan (4/12). An important part of the history of Oregon's logging industry can be called "disaster management." Due to events known as the Columbus Day Storm, the Ox Bow Burn and the Tillamook Fire, techniques and practices we use today came to be standard in times of great calamity. By matching the volumes generated by disaster we become a symptom, not a remedy.

It is rare for any business to be able to pay their landscapers with yard clippings, yet many businesses recognize the value, and spend great sums to keep up appearances. Someone in the company has to decide the proper balance. Modern corporate loggers have established a professionally accepted way of doing business that assumes humans will replace fire and wind.

When a road that has forever been a path is considered as a highway, it is appropriate to take stock of "why do I want to go there?"

*Jim Guthrie
Eugene*

PETE'S PUBLIC SERVICE

We, the people of the 99 percent, have a great advocate in Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson. He has stood with us both in the proposals he has authored and supported and in the witnessing by showing up on street corners where we have demonstrated for social justice.

It is true that people are greatly defined by their enemies, and we have seen how much effort his detractors did put into the now discredited attempt to bring him down. He and Rob Handy stood firm and won.

Pete has the knowledge of government and the determination we will need to be an effective voice in the upcoming County Commission. Give your support to Sorenson for Lane County Commissioner. He will be your dedicated public servant where it matters.

*Len Hockley
Eugene*

BREAK THE UNION

The UO's corporate law is renown. The corporation I refer to is the one that took over what was once a public institution. First order of business: Break the union. Separate the faculty from the professors, saying the latter type of employees lack a "community of interest" and are "too disparate" to be part of the new union that has moved into the new company store. Once put upon an ivory tower now reduced to unwanted desperadoes, the seekers of truth will be resigned to the streets. The new sheriff in town will teach the faculty what they need to know and how to teach.

If Big is my brother I can only hope one of us is adopted.

*Vince Loving
Eugene*

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