

The package suffers from “three major flaws,” reads a statement from Chuck Sheketoff, executive director of OCPP. “Revenue shrinks after the current budget period, it’s mainly a tax cut for some of Oregon’s wealthiest 1 percent, and it won’t create any jobs, despite what its proponents claim.”

Sheketoff is concerned that the legislation fails to place an expiration date or sunset on the tax subsidy for wealthy business owners. “It’s not only contrary to public policy enacted by the 2013 Legislature,” he says, “but it’s irresponsible for lawmakers to not sunset this tax provision.”

Sheketoff told *EW* that this concession to the Republicans was likely a response to voters passing Ballot Measures 66 and 67 in 2010, which raised taxes on Oregonians earning more than \$125,000 a year.

Some taxes will go up under the legislation, but Sheketoff says K-12 schools that will benefit from the \$100 million in new revenue over the next two years may be in for a surprise when the money dries up at the end of the biennium.

“The proposal, ultimately, hangs on the erroneous premise that reducing taxes for wealthy business owners creates jobs,” he says. “Customer demand, not tax rates, drives the need for new employees.”

The tax package also put limits on state contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), but unions are expected to challenge the cuts in court.

Find more on Sheketoff’s analysis of the legislation at ocpp.org. — *Ted Taylor*

MARCH FOR LOCAL FOOD RIGHTS

On Saturday, Oct. 12, Eugeneans can take part in another international March Against Monsanto, a worldwide event to raise awareness of the controversy surrounding genetically modified foods and seeds. The event is particularly telling in light of the recent passing of Senate Bill 863 in Oregon during the recent special session of the Legislature. That law means the state rather than local governments regulate local agriculture.

“We don’t really want to march against anyone; Monsanto isn’t the only biotech corporation. We’re not even calling it a march — we’re calling it the ‘March Above and Beyond Monsanto,’” says Sabrina Siegel, a main organizer of the event.

“This issue is kept out of our media in the U.S. — so much so we have to march and create events to get the word out to the public.”

The march will begin at the Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza and end at the First Christian Church with an informational panel called “Tools and Tactics for Sustainable Food Systems.”

A variety of local activists will be on the panel, including Melissa Wischerath from the Center for Sustainability Law, Zach Baker from Support Local Food Rights, Stacey Be Black from Kid Food Matters, Doug Hornaday from Healthy Bees Healthy Gardens and Kristie Steele, along with Siegel, from GMO Free Oregon. The panel is moderated by *EW*’s Camilla Mortensen.

The event will also raise awareness about SB 863, which specifically says that, “exclusive regulatory power over agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed and vegetable seed and products of agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed and vegetable seed [will be reserved] to the state.”

“It’s sort of an affront to our democracy,” Siegel says. “Let’s get together as a community and protect our families.”

Kai Huschke of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), which has been working with local

groups on community rights, says SB 863 does not mean the end for petitioning efforts in Lane and other Oregon counties to place local bans on the production of genetically modified foods that would protect people such as organic farmers.

He says the law comes into play after only people have voted on the measure. But Huschke says, “It is also here where corporate rights and the Constitution come into play in putting the big squash on local decision making power related to things like food production.” He says SB 863 calls attention to the need to change the structure, not just react to the Legislature.

The march is not the only local food and ag event in the near future — Support Local Food Rights, which recently had its ballot initiative language approved by Lane County, is having an event Nov. 8 on local food rights, and Sprout will celebrate its first anniversary and “how food grows community” on Oct. 18.

The “March Above and Beyond Monsanto” will start at 11 am and the “Tools and Tactics” panel will start at noon at the First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St. For more information on CELDF’s model for what that structural change could look like in Oregon go to wkly.ws/1kw. — *Jordan Tichenor*

‘The proposal, ultimately, hangs on the erroneous premise that reducing taxes for wealthy business owners creates jobs. Customer demand, not tax rates, drives the need for new employees.’

— CHUCK SHEKETOFF

POLLUTION UPDATE

Comments on stormwater pollution control plans for three **Eugene Sand & Gravel** facilities (one on Coburg Road and two on North Delta Highway in Eugene) and **Knife River Corporation — Northwest’s** Harrisburg facility are due to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by 5 pm Oct. 18. Eugene Sand & Gravel is an assumed business name of **Eugene Sand Construction, Inc.** and Spokane-based **CPM Development Corporation**. Visit goo.gl/ScwdH to see stormwater plans, and goo.gl/DvYGCn to comment. — *Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project*

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

- Freres Timber Inc. (503) 859-2111 plans to hire Rue Forest Contracting (503) 829-4150 to hack and squirt 37 acres near **Upper Lake Creek** with Imazapyr. See ODF notification 2013-781-00903 for more information.
- ODOT is now doing fall roadside spraying. They plan to spray **most of Highway 36** soon. You may reach District 5 offices at 744-8080 or call their automated information line at (888) 996-8080 for more information.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy & Gary Hale, Forestland Dwellers: 342-8332, www.forestlanddwellers.org

lighten up

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

When you see the UO athletic department pricing ordinary fans out of Autzen and dumping local longtime suppliers of goods and services in favor of big out-of-state firms, you can tell that the Ducks have been winning too many games.

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