

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

TED CRUZ'S PATH TO THE WHITE HOUSE



IN SUPPORT OF TPP

I urge Oregonians to encourage our congressional delegation to support adoption of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement. TPP boosts made-in-America exports to some of the fastest growing countries in the world, eliminates trade barriers, creates a level playing field and establishes rules stopping unfair trade.

In 2013 Oregon exported \$2.3 billion in raw agricultural products, as well as other value-added products. Oregon's agricultural exports boosted farm income and supported about 17,400 jobs that can pay 20 percent more than jobs not connected to the international economy.

Foreign trade is crucial for Oregon's urban and rural businesses. Standing still on the TPP is not an option.

With Oregon's strategic Pacific Rim location, the TPP is vitally necessary. For Oregon companies with products garnering international demand, Asia is essential for our growth.

The TPP will grow Oregon's economy, add family-wage jobs and support industry throughout Oregon.

*Stan Baker, president
Baker Seed Technologies
Corvallis*

RAISE WORLD STANDARDS

When Sen. Ron Wyden held a town hall meeting at Sheldon High School recently, many people got to express their opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership. I asked him this question:

"The TPP would turn over American sovereign interests to 600 international corporations accountable only to profit. Since Congress, the Legislature and the president don't have any authority over them, don't you think supporting the TPP is un-American?"

His answer was that Free Trade Agreements would allow free flow in and out of the U.S. and that this could set up Oregon as a manufacturer of goods sold worldwide.

The problem with this answer is that without protections for workers, consumers and the environment, jobs will

flow to wherever the workforce gets paid the least, and workers have less rights. This is exactly what FTAs engender. So to achieve what he proposes, Oregon would have to lower its wages!

The only solution which would be best for all to achieve is raising the standards worldwide. Minimum wage in the U.S. should be a *livable wage*. If the same happens in other countries, no one will be exploited and the pyramid metaphor of a few billionaires on top and millions of poor people at the bottom will be replaced by less economic extremes.

Hard work would still be rewarded, but the wealth of states and countries would express more justice.

This is what the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network (ESSN) works towards.

*David Ivan Piccioni
ESSN Board member
Eugene*

WRONG CONCLUSION

In response to John Zerzan's Jan. 29 letter "Keep Pretending," I would say that his claiming the 18th-century Enlightenment and its attendant gains in science and technology as being the ultimate causes of fundamentalist terrorism, as we see it today, is totally wrong.

What is the logic of Zerzan's charge — that advancements in philosophy and science should have been stifled? The Inquisition tried to serve that purpose, using fundamentalist violence in an attempt to carry out its aim.

Are we to believe that, if Muslim fundamentalists were reading Baruch Spinoza and Thomas Paine, they would still attack *Charlie Hebdo*? Or, if I get Zerzan's point, the attack on *Charlie Hebdo* is a result of the writings of Spinoza and Paine? Wouldn't a more realistic assessment be to say the problem has been a Wahabbist fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic scripture, which might do well with some widening of scope?

*Stephen Amy
Eugene*

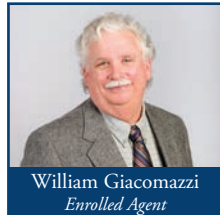
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