

Clean energy prices are now as cheap or cheaper than any fossil fuel or nuclear power, in much of the world and the U.S. In Arizona and Colorado, solar/wind are now cheaper than any fossil fuel, with energy storage costs included. Their prices will continue to plummet for the foreseeable future as they scale up, becoming at least 50 percent cheaper by 2030.

In contrast, more than 50 percent of the nuclear power plants in the U.S. last year operated at a loss, losing about \$2.9 billion, unable to compete with natural gas or clean energy. Construction of two U.S. nuclear reactors was abandoned last year.

By 2020, natural gas too will be priced out of the market by solar and wind. Solar and wind made up roughly 62 percent of new power construction in 2017, and will surpass nuclear capacity this year.

Like the fossil fuel industry, only government subsidies are keeping the nuclear industry afloat. Renewables get subsidies, too, but they've been repaid, making a \$37.7 million profit for taxpayers.

And clean energy doesn't have nuclear's dangerous "hidden" costs: radioactive waste disposal, decommissioning, proliferation/terrorism/rogue states, etc. So it's not an attractive option.

*Pete Kuntz
Northglenn, Colorado*

BARK AND BITE

In mid-January, a subcontractor working for the city of Eugene's Urban Forestry department chopped down my wonderful, prolific fig tree. When I insisted it must be a mistake, the subcontractor assured me that it wasn't — and that the city had been removing lots of trees that looked healthy, and that lots of people were angry.

After much delay, the contact person at the city finally admitted it was a mistake by their subcontractor, but he acted as though the mistake had nothing to do with the city. His position was that, since the city "owned" the right-of-way in front of my house, they could legally do whatever they wanted with it.

My position is, it may be legal, but it isn't fair. My fig tree was beloved by the neighborhood, and by countless passing bike-path users. If the city can do whatever it wants with any homeowner's right-of-way, without notice or explanation, then no tree in the right-of-way is safe.

And if the city mistakenly removes your tree, that's just too bad. No reputable business could get away with refusing to take responsibility for its employees' errors, and Eugene shouldn't get away with it, either.

*Polly Bowman
Eugene*

PAVE AND RUN

What good are the "pillars" of Envision Eugene, if pave-and-run, out-of-state for-maximum-profit developers can get away with most everything short of battery and assault on our community.

Proposed developments abutting our sacred Willamette River Greenway need to be compatible with existing neighborhood values and context sensitive design.

We don't need another out-of-state cookie-cutter design foisted on our cherished greenway, like the pave-and-run

strategy foisted upon our neighbors at the ECCO development. Recently, HACSA (Housing Authority & Community Services Agency of Lane County) morphed into Homes for Good.

Does the makeover give cover for them in ditching their long-time mission to create affordable housing? Instead, selling a public asset for chump change to the developer to reap market-rate rents to be sold off after the pave-and-run strategy has been implemented.

HACSA/Homes for Good looks to build their own palatial palace for the administrators from proceeds from this potential sale. The strategy that HACSA/HFG has embedded itself with includes ignoring the obvious concerns.

Of course, HACSA/HFG is at the mercy of the Lane County commissioners, think organizational chart. When I was serving as a county commissioner, some of our discussions centered on how to put the "community services" back into HACSA. How silly of me. They not only ditched the CS in HACSA; they also carved the heart out of affordable housing.

Any chance, Mr. Fox can yet salvage his own career legacy, or that of HACSA/HFG? Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, move along, folks — nothing to see here.

*Rob Handy
Eugene*

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

It seems the county commissioners don't realize that the commission is the first level of government for all rural, non-incorporated areas of Lane County. They represent the first line of defense for those citizens protecting their health, safety and welfare.

They have failed as a body over the years to assume the just response to this citizen alert: Aerial toxic spray victims are no less than collateral damage to industrial logging. There is no other place under our system for effective redress of invasion by toxic drift. In 40-plus years of herbicide spray, the liability for such a horrendous invasion has failed to be established.

Where is government's protection of its people? Where is our treasured initiative system giving the people the right to direct democratic vote regarding our health, safety and welfare?

Simple truth No. 1: Fifteen thousand people want to vote on their right to be free from aerial toxic trespass.

Simple truth No. 2: The Lane County Commission can refer the charter amendment to the ballot as an initiative.

*Linda Kanter
Deadwood*

UNION POWER

Amazing! In a recent guest viewpoint in *The Register-Guard* ("Springfield leaders target a barrier to affordable housing," 3/17), the presidents of the Eugene and Springfield boards of Realtors equated affordable housing with subsidized housing. What kind of economic system is this, if working families can't afford housing without public assistance?

Chelsea Dietmeyer and Isaac Judd rightly commend Springfield for encouraging

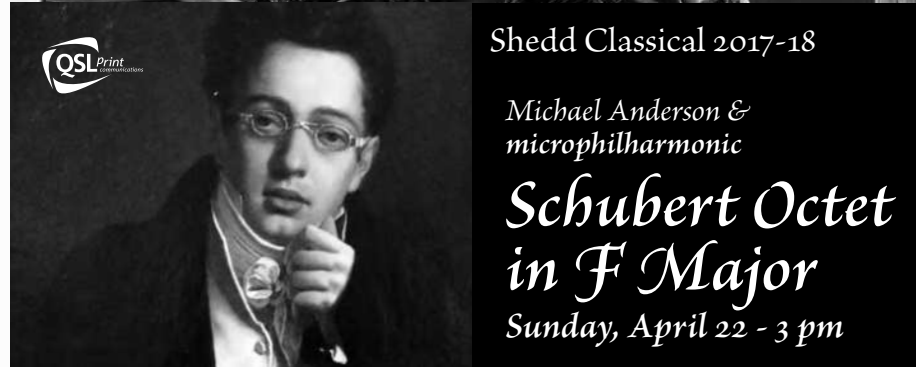
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