

Keep beach bill safe

After reading Louis Sargent's letter "Beach love" (*The Daily Astorian*, Oct. 23), I wondered why Sargent was puzzled by Matt Love's unrelenting paeans to Oregon's "historic Beach Bill," which created Oregon's public beach access. Love's constant concern for keeping Oregon's coast an open road should be encouraged, not criticized, because without people like Love, Oregon's Beach Bill would not exist "in perpetuity," as it is now written.

Sargent's ramble about the use of the public beaches in other states, walking more miles than Love, and being twice his age, is irrelevant. What Sargent omits is the fact that if you look up beach access laws in any of the states he mentioned, you will find that these states have major problems when it comes to private versus public access. This is why Love continues to cry out for us to protect Oregon's beaches, and to help him in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Oregon's historic Beach Bill on July 6, 2017.

Perhaps Sargent doesn't know that Love's 2009 hardback compilation of the best of Oregon writing, "Citadel of the Spirit: Oregon's Sesquicentennial Anthology" also contains a DVD of Tom Olsen's film documentary "Politics of Sand."

If Sargent were to see Love's participation in that documentary, and listen to his passionate and perceptive commentary concerning the political process that resulted in Oregon's Beach Bill, then I'm sure Sargent would not ask, as he has in his letter, "Why doth Love protest so much?"

But if an answer is needed, Matt Love might quote Abraham Lincoln and say, "Whenever there is a conflict between human rights and property rights, human rights must prevail." In terms of Oregon's statewide open-road free access beaches, that cannot be said enough.

REX AMOS
Cannon Beach

Vote yes for school

A very important vote is coming up in the next couple of weeks and in fact, for most

Time to call Gov. Brown about LNG

How many meetings have you attended that start with, "We are here to listen to your input?" Oh come on now, it's OK, and won't be cheating if you count the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in your total.

Clearly, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown wants to hear your opinion, because there is a phone number, 503-378-4582, and a real staff person to record your comments. You are probably thinking, "What am I going to call the governor about?"

Glad you asked. How about the fact that 68 percent (no that's not a typo, it really was nearly 7 out of 10) of Clatsop County voters said no, they did not want a liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline in the jaw droppingly beautiful Lower Columbia area we call our home. Period. And that wasn't just Warrenton and Astoria voters, it was the whole county.

Now comes Oregon LNG, who wants to build an LNG terminal on the Skipanon peninsula that is so big, it will cost enough

money to wear out your calculator batteries, and will release 2.6 billion tons of carbon monoxide, plus methane gas, annually into the air we breathe. Wow. That sounds important enough to me to be a 2016 campaign election issue — cough, cough.

So how else would this terminal affect our daily lives? In all likelihood, it would hurt Warrenton financially with decreased property values and increased insurance rates for homes and businesses in the huge blast zone around the terminal.

It would also likely reduce revenue from sport and commercial fishing. It would destroy downtown Astoria with the hundreds and hundreds of trucks transporting construction material through downtown, from Tongue Point to the Skipanon, for four years.

In addition, it would put all Lower Columbia residents at serious risk because of the earthquake/tsunami zone location. If a person doesn't care about that, they should probably check their pulse to see if their

heart is still beating.

For goodness' sake, Oregon LNG doesn't even have land to build on, because the court ruled that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has an easement on that property.

Ask Gov. Brown to use her authority, the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Clean Air Act to stop this project. No matter how hard anyone tries, you cannot mitigate a major earthquake/tsunami, global air pollution, the extinction of a salmon run or the will of the people.

So whip out those cell phones and call Gov. Brown again and again and again at 503-378-4582 — there is no limit. The benefits are limitless, and you should feel much better after you have had your say. Some people even say it's therapeutic.

So come on, folks. This is our democracy. Let's make it work the way it's supposed to.

CARL DOMINEY
Astoria

of us, it is the only item on the ballot. Ballot Measure 4-177 is a renewal of the retiring operating levy for the Seaside School District that is absolutely essential to the district's ability to continue providing a quality education for our children.

As the parent of three children who have attended Seaside schools, and now graduated from the high school, I have been continually impressed with the depth of knowledge and the level of education our kids are receiving, even after the storm of budget cuts the district has already had to face. I cannot imagine what will happen to our educational system if we fail to renew this commitment.

As the husband of a Seaside educator, I understand the challenges our teachers face with growing class sizes. In some cases, classes are close to 40 students in size, almost double what they were when I was in school, and they seemed nearly unmanageable back then.

By voting yes on this ballot measure, you and I will be renewing the local tax option, providing close to \$1.3 million per year in operational funding for the district, which is essentially equal to 18 licensed teaching staff. It's also import-

ant to remember that this is not increasing taxes or creating a new tax, it is simply a renewal of the currently retiring tax option.

With all of the recent discussion around raising minimum wage to help those in poverty earn a better living, I think we tend to overlook the single most important way to combat poverty: education. I encourage everyone to join me in voting yes on Ballot Measure 4-177 and renew our support of the Seaside School District.

DARREN GOOCH
Warrenton

Invest in schools

I am writing to thank Katharine Lacaze for writing a thoughtfully detailed article on the Seaside school levy ("Voters given option to renew local tax for Seaside school district," *The Daily Astorian*, Oct. 14).

Everyone's first response to hearing about any new tax or renewed tax is generally to cringe. Lacaze did a great job of clarifying this levy. I will be voting yes for kids because renewal of a tax that I've already been paying towards isn't going to hurt my wallet any more than saving for my children's future.

We are investing and main-

taining what we already have, and all will benefit from it in the end. Renewing this levy is about investing into the future of this community. We need to grow a community that makes people want to be a part of it and stay and invest in its growth.

By voting yes, we will continue to enrich and improve all four of our schools. We will continue to retain quality teachers and programs that will grow young smart adults who will contribute to society in a positive way.

AMY GOODDING
Seaside

Action needed

Open letter to the mayor and council members of the city of Gearhart: My husband and I have owned a home in Gearhart for nearly 20 years. When we purchased our home, Gearhart was relatively unknown. Many home owners rented their homes to friends and relatives, or they used local real estate firms to handle their rentals.

This system has worked well until recently, when national and international real estate agencies discovered that many Gearhart home-

owners were eager to rent their homes non-stop for high rental fees. Because of the abrupt entrance of nationwide rental agencies like Vacasa, the quiet and charm that once graced Gearhart has been interrupted. This situation is not reserved for holidays or weekends, it exists every day during the summer and into autumn.

We have a short term rental next door to our home, where we have been observing one bunch of renters packing up and leaving in the morning and another group showing up in the late afternoon after the cleaners have come and gone. Traffic has increased dramatically on our street, South Marion — a narrow, dead end street with little or no shoulder, where traffic flow is often impeded, as has been the case with garbage pickup.

Realistically, most rental agencies don't know how many people are staying in any one rental, let alone how many cars, boats, trailers, or campers they have brought with them.

There has been talk of polling Gearhart homeowners. I believe there have been enough committees, emails, letters, and words of complaint by those of us who have been impacted by

this sorry state of affairs, which often pits neighbor against neighbor, and has changed the very essence of our community. Now it is time for action, before next summer, when this situation will surely escalate as more and more homeowners are tempted to take the money these competitive rental agencies offer for renting their homes.

The mayor and city council members need to enact rules and regulations that are enforceable and have teeth, not \$10 parking tickets, but ones with consequences. Like other communities in our area, they should consider capping the number of short term rental units allowed in Gearhart, limit the number of occupants allowed in a rental unit, and set a minimum number of days a property may be rented. We urge the mayor and city councilors to act quickly so we won't have another "lost summer."

TERRY AND CATHY
GRAFF
Gearhart

Be fair

We are writing this letter because we disagree with the way the short term rentals in Gearhart has been reported. While I would suspect that *The Daily Astorian* is trying to be unbiased, the reporter has not interviewed anyone who rents out their home. "Why?" we ask.

Chad Sweet mentions that he has received letters of support on both sides of this issue. How many of the letters are in favor of restrictions, and how many are opposed? We don't know. Isn't it the reporter's duty to make sure it is reported?

Also, we do agree that the number of short term rentals has increased in the last year or so. Readers should ask, as the reporter did not, how many have been rented for, say, five years or more. I suspect that the reporter will find that many homes have been rented for quite some time.

All we ask is that the reporter do his or her job. Be fair and honest with the reading public.

GREG AND NANCY
MARSHALL
Gearhart

What will the Oregon economy look like in 2016?



Joe Cortright
November 5

Joe Cortright is president and principal economist of Impresa Consulting of Portland. He is chair of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. Also he is director of a new think tank called City Observer, funded by the John S. Knight Foundation.

TO ATTEND:

For Members:
Dinner & Lecture: \$25 ea.
Lecture only: no charge

For Non-Members:
Dinner & Lecture: \$35 ea.
Lecture only: \$15 ea.

Appetizers will be available at 6 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will begin after the dinner service is complete and non-dinner members and guests of the audience take their seats.

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