

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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## Workforce housing may cause discomfort

*With few building sites, leaders must become pragmatic*

If Astoria wants more workforce housing, the City Council and the public must become more realistic. Two recent situations illustrate why this will be a challenge.

One was the developer Dick Krueger's proposal to develop housing on the Central School block, a site bounded by Irving and Jerome, Ninth and Tenth. The second was a Portland developer's proposal to buy the Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center and the Josie Peper building for the purpose of building housing.

Krueger retreated when residents surrounding Central School raised concerns about his concept of attached housing. Residents preferred detached homes.

If anything unites these two incidents, it is that a constituency decided a developer's interest would put something they value in jeopardy. For the Central School neighbors, the lot itself is precious in many ways. With the college's property, a group wants to see the PAC preserved in perpetuity.

Working with neighbors is part of what a developer must do these days. So it may be that another developer would have the tenacity to negotiate a solution on the Central School site.

The Performing Arts Center is a stickier wicket, because the building is a financial dark hole. The root of the PAC's

impairment is that the college for decades charged virtually no rent for its use. The college board allowed performing groups to live in an unreal world, in which there was no revenue stream to maintain the building and build reserves for the inevitable capital investment.

The first symptom of the building's mortality happened under CCC President John Wubben, when the building's steeple was removed, because it was rotten. The PAC today has \$1 million in deferred maintenance, according to the college's chief financial officer.

The real question is whether the PAC and the adjoining Josie Peper building could be demolished and replaced with workforce housing. To the PAC's supporters, Partners for the PAC, that would be an earthquake.

The larger reality is that Astoria doesn't have many sites to build affordable, workforce housing. So if the city truly wants more, leaders such as the City Council and CCC Board of Directors cannot afford to dismiss considerations that some Astorians might find alarming on the surface. They must ask, "How can we make something happen here?"

## Transparency loses with Gov. Brown

Who owns government information — citizens, or the public employees our taxes pay to produce it?

Oregon continues to struggle with this issue, as our Capital Bureau reporters explored in Tuesday story about the waning drive for transparency reforms in the state capital. Gov. Kate Brown succeeded in some small efforts directed at situations arising from the Kitzhaber/Hayes scandal. But more meaningful improvements have died on the vine.

A legislative leader told our reporters that a key reform stalled this year because city and county governments opposed deadlines and fee limits in the bill.

It is always possible to find examples of gadflies stretching open-records laws by making overly broad or burdensome requests. However, the American system of government deliberately vests the news media and citizen activ-

ists with a large role in making certain the public knows what civil servants are doing and saying. Inconvenience and expense are never valid excuses when an agency fails to live up to fundamental expectations.

The rise of email — and a trend of government employees and elected leaders using personal accounts to conduct what is supposed to be public business — makes it particularly important that transparency laws keep up with changing technology. It is reasonable to require officials to promptly submit such emails for official archiving.

Beyond the issue of government documents in all formats, some public entities in Oregon routinely shut the press and public out of meetings, or fail to publicize them. This is never acceptable.

Oregon prides itself on strong adherence to democratic principles. Our leaders must do much better at living up to these aspirations.

## GUEST COLUMN

# Oregon can deny LNG now



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Protesters use signs to shield themselves from the rain during a rally before the Oregon Liquefied Natural Gas permit public hearing at the Warrenton Community Center.

*This is a condensed version of a letter sent by 22 organizations from 14 counties to the State Land Board, urging it to stop the Jordan Cove and Oregon liquefied natural gas terminals proposed for Oregon. The Land Board, comprised of Gov. Kate Brown, Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins, and Treasurer Ted Wheeler, has the power to stop both projects now.*

By **CHERYL JOHNSON and LAURIE CAPLAN**

*Columbia Pacific Common Sense*

The state of Oregon is in a uniquely powerful position to end the issue of LNG export altogether. We urge you, as the State Land Board, to support state actions that stop proposals to export LNG from Oregon.

As the State Land Board, you have the authority needed to protect Oregon from LNG export. This authority was confirmed by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioner Marc Spitzer. Voting to approve the Bradwood Landing LNG proposal, he wrote on Sept. 18, 2008, that Oregon has "an effective veto over LNG projects."

Last month, FERC denied both the Jordan Cove LNG terminal and its Pacific Connector pipeline, concluding that the adverse effects to landowners and communities outweigh the public benefit.

The case against Oregon LNG is similar and increasingly clear. Last year, Oregon's Land Use Board of Appeals upheld Clatsop County's unanimous 5-0 decision in 2013 to deny a permit for Oregon LNG's proposed pipeline. Clatsop County successfully defended the denial against multiple court challenges by Oregon LNG.

Meanwhile, the Department of Land Conservation and Development has yet to deny Oregon LNG's proposal, which clearly conflicts with Oregon's Coastal Zone law. We urge you to support agency actions that reject the Oregon LNG project — at the earliest possible opportunity.

Such a statement from you would be timely and appropriate, since both proposals are faltering badly. Jordan Cove was denied by FERC in a landmark decision. Oregon LNG lacks control of the terminal site, and it has failed to obtain local permits for a terminal or a pipeline. Now is the time for the state to intervene decisively to uphold county and state law.

On March 4, the hearings officer hired by the city of Warrenton denied the Oregon LNG export terminal proposed for Warrenton.

Oregon LNG does not have use of its proposed site. In late 2015, a federal magistrate judge dismissed Oregon LNG's attempt to overturn the 60-year-old easement held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the site in Warrenton.

FERC's denial confirms that the proposals do not serve the public interest. The speculators backing these reckless proposals are willing to sacrifice lives, local and regional economies, and our natural world for their own gain.

Both proposals depend on using eminent domain to take private property for private profit. More than 95 percent of landowners along the route for the proposed Jordan Cove pipeline oppose it, and have refused to sign easements. The State Land Board and Oregon's natural resource agencies should protect Oregon families from these unnecessary projects that cannot demonstrate a plausible market or public interest.

**It's time to stop these proposals and put Oregon back on track.**

## Open forum

### Police disappoint

Early one morning recently, I contacted the police to report an illegally parked vehicle blocking my neighbor's private driveway. The police informed me that they can only respond to this if the property owner submits the report.

Now if I understand this policy correctly, as a concerned citizen who witnessed a violation, the police won't respond unless I'm the victim. This policy is interesting. Does it apply to all crimes or violations?

JOHN SIRI  
Astoria

### Elect Goldthorpe

When I moved to Clatsop County, I had a lot of odds against me, and at times I could have sworn that I would never catch a break.

Then I met David Goldthorpe, who changed my life indefinitely. I experienced firsthand what it's like to have David Goldthorpe fight for me and feel undeserving of it. I experienced firsthand what his professionalism and public service consisted of.

I was honored to arrive to the other side of my endeavors and have the blessing of calling him a friend, men-

tor, and someone to look up to when needing a positive influence.

Without a doubt, I know that David Goldthorpe will go above and beyond for Clatsop County. He will fight against all odds and will deliver justice professionally and equipped with care for what is best for our community.

By electing David Goldthorpe, we can expect to see a brighter future for Clatsop County for generations to come.

SHAYLYN CONNELLY-FRENCH  
Warrenton

### McIntosh for judge

I am supporting Dawn McIntosh for Circuit Court judge. I am a retired 30-year employee of Clatsop County courts. I have had the experience of working with all three candidates, and I have respect for all of them.

I feel Dawn McIntosh is the best candidate. She has the experience, dedication and knowledge needed to be a fair and impartial judge. I have witnessed her abilities both as a prosecutor in the district attorney's office and in private practice. Dawn is always prepared for her cases, and works very hard to present the facts.

Each proposal would become the largest greenhouse gas polluter in Oregon. LNG is not "clean energy." It appears that natural gas is equal to, or worse than coal as a greenhouse gas polluter.

The projects would have a huge industrial footprint — including the destruction of farms, forest, waterways, and our natural environment — to construct and operate pipelines and terminals. The Oregon LNG project would dramatically degrade critical salmon habitat and disrupt fishing in the Columbia River.

Both proposals violate Oregon's land use laws, planning goals and guidelines.

Both proposals involve constructing and operating dangerous facilities on unstable soils in Oregon's infamous subduction earthquake and tsunami zone. Oregon should reject the proposals to construct high-pressure, monodorized gas pipelines through steep, erosive Coast Range soils, in our often inaccessible forests and mountains.

Please support our commitment to a thriving sustainable Oregon economy — one that relies on fair treatment for Oregon landowners, protection for our scenic estuaries, and the ongoing cultivation of sustainable fishing and shellfishing industries.

Finally, please support the thousands of Oregonians who have been devoting time, talent, money, and heart to stop these proposals since 2004, almost 12 years. As FERC Commissioner Spitzer said in 2008, "... since 1967, no LNG facility has been built over opposition from the local community." We are counting on you to use your authority to deny LNG export proposals in Oregon.

Please let us know how we can help you do the right thing. It's time to stop these proposals and put Oregon back on track to lead our country into a resilient, sustainable future.

I believe her experience and professionalism is what Clatsop County needs for a Circuit Court judge.

Join me in voting for Dawn McIntosh.

KERRI WHITTEN  
HOAGLAND  
Astoria

### Give old papers

Do you purchase or subscribe to *The Daily Astorian*, *Columbia Press*, *Seaside Signal*, *The Oregonian*, or any other newspaper? Do you shop at or donate goods to the Warrenton Goodwill? If so, after reading your paper, instead of putting it into the recycling or garbage, put it into a bag or box and give it to Goodwill the next time you go.

They always have a need for unsold newspaper with which to wrap breakable purchases. The only way they get the paper is if you give it to them. They do not get it from anywhere else, and are not given money by the corporate office to purchase paper, so they run out sometimes. It doesn't cost you anything, and I bet you get a big smile and thank you to brighten your day.

DIANA TALARSKY  
Warrenton