

# OPINION

editor@dailyastorian.com



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KARI BORGEN  
Publisher

JIM VAN NOSTRAND  
Editor

JEREMY FELDMAN  
Circulation Manager

DEBRA BLOOM  
Business Manager

JOHN D. BRUIJN  
Production Manager

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Systems Manager

## OUR VIEW

# Carbon panel should reflect urban, rural voices

Oregon's environment and economy are in a political battle.

The saving grace may be a new legislative committee, which state House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senate President Peter Courtney are forming to find a solution.

The issue is legislation dubbed "Clean Energy Jobs" by its supporters and derided as "Tax and Job Loss" by its opponents. It is a long-studied and highly complex plan to reduce greenhouse gases from Oregon's very largest polluters, put a price on carbon emissions and invest the proceeds in clean energy projects.

The controversy exemplifies Oregon's urban-rural divide.

Environmental groups and Democratic legislators, especially in the Portland and Eugene areas, enthusiastically support the legislation and wanted it approved in the 2018 Legislature.

Republican lawmakers and major business groups generally oppose the plan, saying it will be expensive for corporations, drive up costs for consumers and have minimal effects on global greenhouse gases.

In what might be a stroke of political genius, Kotek recently asked



Oregon Department of Forestry  
A joint panel of lawmakers will look at a price on carbon emissions to finance clean energy projects.

Courtney to join her in creating and co-chairing a legislative "special Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction to continue the efforts to cut statewide carbon emissions and grow Oregon's clean energy economy." The goal is to rework the legislation for the 2019 Legislature.

The Oregon Legislature has achieved some success through its use of joint Senate-House committees. Courtney and Kotek recently formed the Joint Committee on Student Success, which was scheduled to launch its statewide public hearings this week. That committee is modeled

after last year's successful transportation-finance committee, on which Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, was a key player. Johnson also serves on the Legislature's joint budget committees.

Kotek, a liberal Democrat from Portland, is a keen backer of Clean Energy Jobs. Courtney, a Salem Democrat who is too moderate for some members of his party, helped block passage of the legislation this year, saying it was not ready.

Courtney said he hopes the joint committee can craft a bill that is both effective and has widespread support not only among Democratic and Republican legislators, but also from environmental, business, transportation and other groups.

The legislative leaders could start that process by giving full representation to urban and rural Oregon. They should appoint equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans to the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction.

As Courtney said in announcing the committee with Kotek: "Urban or rural, Democrat or Republican, we share the same state, same air, same environment and the same planet. It's time human nature starts taking care of Mother Nature."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### End gun violence

I was very pleased to see The Daily Astorian come out against gun violence in the March 19 edition ("Listen to the children on gun violence"). I wholeheartedly agree with the editorial, and encourage all citizens to let Congress and the president know that the gun violence in our schools must be stopped.

I was also very happy to read that Fred Meyer is getting out of the gun business ("Superstore chain Fred Meyer to stop selling guns, ammunition," The Daily Astorian, March 18). Way to go, Freddy's.

Please join the "March for Our Lives" rally in Astoria this Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Eighth and Commercial streets. There are also nearby rallies in Longview, Washington, and Portland.

The time is now for changing gun violence in our country. We are held hostage by the gun lobby, and subject to laws not representative of the overwhelming majority of people, who support bans on semi-automatic weapons. There are actions that each and every one of us can take. Call your representatives in Congress and let them know "enough is enough." Make the promise that I have made at sandy-hookpromise.org, and help bring Sandy Hook Promise's no cost violence prevention programs to our schools and community.

NED HEAVENRICH  
Astoria

### Lose, lose

It is hard to believe that the city is even considering allowing another motel to take up more of our river view ("New hotel pitched for Astoria," The Daily Astorian, March 2).

First of all, think of what makes Astoria a popular spot: The wondrous Columbia. Why consider blocking the view for all to enjoy, just so the few who inhabit one of the rooms with a river view have the sole right?

And never mind that it adds to the problem of affordable housing, because more employees will be needed for jobs in the same income bracket that is already scrambling for available housing.

Oh, did I mention that the rest of us residents will no doubt be penalized with higher water/sewage rates eventually, as the motels increase the needs on our existing systems, and if Astoria operates the same way as Cannon Beach, they offer motels a lesser rate than residential customers.

Should I even bother to mention the tsunami factor?

Nope, sorry another motel is not on the list of things Astoria needs.

MARY SCHNASE  
Astoria

### Blossoms in Astoria

February and early March can be considered the last harsh days of winter. At this time I look at the trees, bushes, and much of the land as dormant, and at times bleak. These are not bad times, however, with the earth in its cycle. I feel lucky to be in this spot. A spot made up of hills, water and beautiful landscape. But if you are depressed because of winter — just wait. All of a sudden the blossoms will be here. Now they are small, just sneaking out. Then in late March and April they seem to

overwhelm the land, flowering everywhere.

The cherry tree in front is already looking great. The wind has blown its blossoms across the yard. When the blossoms do fill the land, their colors will cascade up and down the hills. There will be many brilliant colors, with their shades of red, yellow, pink, white, orange, purple and others. This will be the beauty of spring. Later most of the blossoms of the season will fade as the summer months come.

With so many problems in the world, I want to think about this. I want to realize how fortunate I am to be here, not only to see blossoms, but to be alive in a country based on freedom for all, not just those in power. I think of the task of fulfilling this freedom, the hard work of people in the past, and the challenges ahead.

NORM HOOGE  
Astoria

### Full discussion needed on jail

I am pleased that the Clatsop County Commissioners voted to refer the proposed jail bond to the taxpayers, but I expect a full discussion of this extremely complex problem.

The current jail is apparently adequate to house the number of "violent" criminals currently in Clatsop County. A revolving door population exists, of at least several hundred people, who are repeatedly in violation of their probation agreements, but for the most part are living rather ordinary lives. Many are employed and taking care of themselves and their families. Few of them are violent or represent any other danger to the county citizens; keeping them in jail for prolonged periods would increase county expense, but not necessarily deter further crime or protect the public.

The possibility of using the Youth Authority building to house the probation violators and the "out-of-control mentally ill" (who currently have no other place to go but jail), has not been formally discussed. The idea was briefly advanced at the last county commission meeting, only to be summarily dismissed by the county manager and the sheriff.

Jails are clearly necessary, but there is significant disagreement among reasonable people about their purpose, or who should be in them.

THOMAS DUNCAN  
Astoria

### McClain for prosecutor

As your former Pacific County, Washington, prosecutor, District Court judge, and, most recently, Superior Court judge (retired), I write to wholeheartedly endorse Mark McClain for another four years as Pacific County's prosecutor.

Because I am a retired judge, I can endorse Mark McClain. Mark is an experienced, capable, honest and battle-tested prosecutor. I can tell you as someone who has "walked in Mark's shoes" for eight years as your Pacific County prosecutor, experience matters. Prosecutors hold criminals accountable. This affects your safety as you walk our streets.

Mark is a proven, capable, dedicated public servant able to effectively manage this office and protect our community. Mark has

earned, yes earned, my trust and respect. He has appeared before me in hundreds of felony cases. Mark presented careful and thoughtful legal arguments. He treated all persons in the courtroom with respect. He has experience, toughness and common sense.

Please consider Mark McClain when you cast your vote. I invite you to join me in re-electing Prosecutor Mark McClain.

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN  
Judge, Pacific County Superior Court  
(retired)  
Menlo, Washington

### Don't deflect on guns

There is a meme going around Facebook suggesting that students, on April 20, should Walk Up, Not Out. Instead of forcing our elected leaders to address gun violence, the kids are supposed to walk up to the lonely, the solitary, the odd kid, etc., and be nice to them. The suggestion is that doing this will somehow fix the problem.

Walking Up is a great idea, but it should not be exclusive of Walking Out. When put in the context of do one, not the other, it becomes victim blaming. Children are not responsible for fixing the sociopath, the psychotic and mentally ill in society, and none of these suggestions will fix any of that. It's a deflection from the real problem.

In reality, Gen Z is more aware of bullying, and more accepting of diversity, and more likely to reach out to the kid sitting alone, or without a partner, than any generation before it. By saying Walk Up, Not Out, you are telling them they do not have a voice, and their opinions do not matter. You are basically taking the politicians, the National Rifle Association, and the philosophy that "guns are more important than our children," off the hook.

The kids are Walking Out to change the world and this country for the better. They are the future. Are you with them, or against them?

BILL GRAFFIUS  
Gearhart

### A moving moment

If you missed the Air Force Band, the Commanders Jazz Ensemble, at the Liberty Theatre on March 17, you really missed a great time. The wonderful musicians, along with a great singer who entertained us, were a lot of fun.

At the end of the show, they paid lovely tribute and honor to all of the branches of the military while playing each military theme, and had people stand. I got to stand in honor of my father who was in the Air Force. He passed on 22 years ago. It was a moving moment.

What a great group of men and women who brought us such an enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to the Liberty Theatre for bringing us yet another great event.

ROBIN RODGERS  
Astoria

### Disabled access needed at fair

In 2017, I contacted the Clatsop County Fair Board and wrote a letter to The Daily Astorian complaining of the lack of disabled parking spaces and a total lack of access for the

disabled by vehicle to the front entrance of the fair.

My complaint included the same lack in 2016. In that year, six disabled parking places were covered over for use by vendors right in front of the main building. Access then was also limited for the disabled to reach the front entrance by vehicle.

In 2017, the two available disabled stalls near the entrance were blocked several times by vehicles for vendors. There was no access for vehicles to drop disabled persons off at the entrance. Those who could walk were dropped off at the gate area. Staff and security volunteers did their best to help these people, and were able to drive a van up a back road and drop disabled off at a rear door twice, that I am aware of.

As a Veterans of Foreign Wars volunteer, I observed this problem over the three days I was present, both in 2016-17. I am asking the Fair Board to please look closely at the disabled parking. Don't let the spaces be blocked — it is against Oregon Law. Please allow a clear path for vehicles carrying the disabled to the front entrance.

MELVIN (MEL) JASMIN  
Warrenton

### Orr, our best choice

As a former Republican, I would like to share why I believe candidate John Orr should be our next Oregon House representative for District 32.

Even though he is running for political office for the first time, he is certainly no newcomer to politics. Orr's progressive views on finance reform, housing and the environment, as well as his 25 years representing his community and helping others, have always been distinct and have never wavered.

His approach has always been to fight hard, balanced with a pragmatic sensibility born out of experience with our justice system.

In a time of political turmoil, John Orr maintains a perspective of calm but resolute leadership that Oregonians need in their lawmakers. Someone who can not only represent their concerns, but has the mind, and heart, and experience to actually accomplish these goals.

I encourage everyone to vote, but I especially encourage you to vote for those who truly care about the future of Oregon — John Orr is for Oregon.

PHIL HALL  
Warrenton

### Wealthy get away with it

I am writing in regard to an article I happened upon from the Los Angeles Times. It refers to something called "affluenza." Its meaning comes from what they quote as: "It is no secret that in America the wealthy have a reputation for getting away with injustice."

Sadly, it is true, as I myself learned firsthand. My life hasn't been the same since, and it hurts and hurts me to this day, and will for the remainder of my lifetime. I believe in karma, what goes around comes around. Pray to live and witness it, as I'm sure my mother and father in heaven hurt for me, and wish me the same.

NANCY GLARUM  
Warrenton