

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

A powerful council

Even before Ted Ferrioli and Richard Devlin officially joined the Northwest Power and Conservation Council this month, they were talking by phone several times a week about their upcoming work.

Two decades in the Oregon Legislature forged those connections. Ferrioli, of John Day, was the longtime Republican Senate leader. Devlin, of Tualatin, was Senate Democratic leader and later co-chairman of the Legislature's budget committee. Said Devlin: "We've always had a pretty good working relationship."

That relationship will be key as the pair move from the 90-member Legislature to the eight-member, four-state council. It comprises two members each from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

The council influences billions of dollars in public and private spending on power generation, fish protection and restoration, water use and other areas.

"The job is an intersection with every single public policy issue that affects the quality of life in the upper Columbia River Basin," Ferrioli said.

"The future of the sustainability of communities really depends on our

continued access to low-cost, highly renewable hydroelectric power — and increasingly on alternative energy sources, including wind, geothermal and solar. If you look at the epicenter of all those issues, they all intersect in the upper Columbia River Basin."

Gov. Kate Brown appointed Ferrioli and Devlin to succeed Pendleton lawyer and rancher Henry Lorenzen and former Secretary of State Bill Bradbury as Oregon's representatives.

They have their work cut out for them.

Congress authorized the council in 1980 as an independent agency to assess the Northwest's electricity needs — planning both for electricity and for protection of fish and wildlife. Congress acted in response to the multi-billion-dollar fiasco of the Washington Public Power Supply System, better known as WPPSS, in which public officials grossly overestimated the region's future demand for electricity and the viability of nuclear power.

Five nuclear plants were started, one was completed and currently operates, and WPPSS now is called Energy Northwest. The region's ratepayers still pay the price for those past bad



EO file photo
An overhead crane is used to remove a piece of main unit power generator in 2014, at the McNary Dam on the Columbia River outside of Umatilla.

decisions made by good people.

As Lorenzen left the Northwest Power and Conservation Council on Jan. 16, he warned that state legislators and other policymakers once again were making decisions about renewable energy and other resources on the basis of politics, not the state-of-the-art methodologies developed by the council.

"Our challenge, I believe, is to

make certain in the future, to the best we can, that the methodologies that we have developed also are taken into consideration by those entities, those persons who are making those decisions, whether it be the traditional utility managers or the legislators," Lorenzen said.

As veteran legislators with statewide perspectives, Ferrioli and Devlin should be the right people for that task.

OTHER VIEWS

On immigration, Trump goes for it all

Back in 2015, before the presidential primaries began, a voter asked candidate Donald Trump if he believed compromise should be part of politics.

"Compromise is not a bad word to me," Trump answered. "But if you are going to compromise, ask for about three times more than you want. You understand? So when you compromise, you get what you want."

Now, President Trump is engaged in delicate negotiations with Congress over immigration. And he has come up with a deal. On one hand, he's making a big offer to Democrats: legal status for 1.8 million people in the country illegally, which is more than the 800,000 or so covered by President Obama's old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA — plus a path to citizenship for all of them. In return, Trump is making a big ask: a fully funded border wall, strong limits on chain migration and an end to the visa lottery.

The questions for Democrats: Is Trump asking for three times more than he wants? Can his position be negotiated down? Or is this the deal they should take?

The president's critics on both right and left are "wrong in viewing this as an opening bid," said a source familiar with White House discussions. "The president views this as a best and final offer."

We'll see if that remains the case. What's stunning about the negotiations is how much Trump has expanded their scope. Originally, some Democrats thought they could win a clean legalization for DACA recipients — in other words, for the president to just give Democrats what they wanted and be done with it. But Trump and his Republican allies saw an opportunity to go big, moving beyond even the immigration positions he advocated most frequently in the campaign.

In the presidential race, Trump talked about "extreme vetting" of people coming from terror-plagued countries. He talked about protecting the wages of American citizens. He talked about cracking down on sanctuary cities. But more than anything, Trump talked about building a wall along roughly 1,000 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The wall was a staple of Trump's campaign speeches. It was the backbone of his pledge to protect Americans from the threats posed by illegal immigration — from crime, drugs, low-wage job competition. And it remains the backbone of his current immigration proposal.

At the same time, issues of legal immigration — specifically chain migration and the visa lottery — played far smaller roles in the campaign.

For example, in Trump's much-discussed



BYRON YORK
Comment

August 31, 2016 policy speech in Phoenix, he laid out 10 immigration priorities for his administration. Number one was the wall. Number two was an end to the catch-and-release policy. Number three was zero tolerance for criminal aliens. After that came sanctuary cities, an entry-exit visa tracking system and more.

Reforming legal immigration was number 10, at the bottom of Trump's list. He didn't talk much about it, at least not in any detail. Mostly, Trump made just a brief nod to legal

immigration, saying he wanted to include a "big, fat, beautiful door" in the border wall through which legal immigrants would be welcomed. But now, limiting chain migration and ending the visa lottery are key parts of the Trump immigration package. And the president has leverage; Democrats desperately want DACA legalization. They're prepared to give something away to get it.

In addition, some polls suggest Trump's positions — making immigration more merit-based and doing away with the visa lottery — enjoy majority support.

By making a maximalist offer, Trump has things to give away in negotiation. In the end, there is probably just one thing he absolutely has to have, and that is the thing he promised voters over and over and over again: the wall.

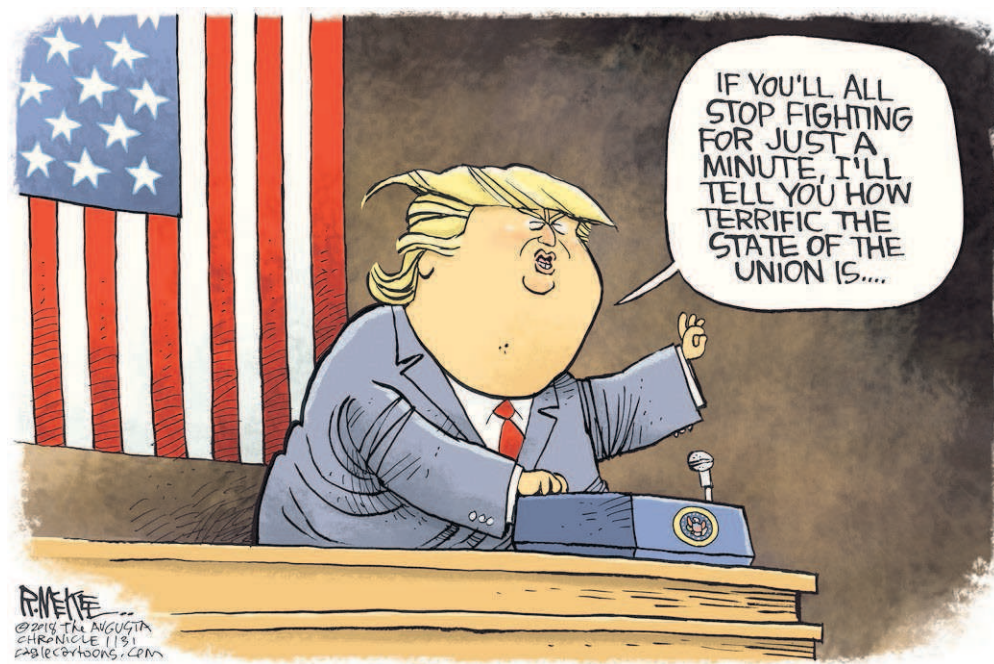
The White House has come up with a demand for \$25 billion for the wall — enough to cover its construction and various support systems. And not some sort of Washington make-believe \$25 billion. Trump wants Congress to put the money in a trust fund that the president could use to pay for building the wall. (That doesn't mean opponents won't try to stop the project by other means, like a barrage of lawsuits, but for the White House, it's first things first.)

It's important to say that everything could still fall apart, but at the moment, Trump's goal is within reach. Democrats acknowledge that they're going to have to give something big to get Trump's equally big offer on DACA legalization.

In the end, a Trump victory on the wall would be absolutely remarkable. Just think back to all those Democrats and activists and other Trump opponents who virtually pledged to throw their bodies in front of any effort to build a wall. The ones who pledged that Congress would never approve a wall. That it would never, ever, ever be built.

Now, the president might be on the verge of proving them wrong. How? It's simple. You just ask for about three times more than you want, so when you compromise, you get what you want.

Byron York is a political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.



YOUR VIEWS

Eastern Oregon deserves same protection as coast

Governor Brown: I heard your perfect response to the Trump Administration's plans for offshore drilling along our Oregon coast: "In what universe would this be okay? Our coastal beaches are really important to Oregonians. They are very important to who we are and very important to our economy." I knew I had to write to you on behalf of all of us in Eastern Oregon.

Eastern Oregon has been fighting for its very life for the past 10 years. Now Idaho Power, a \$6 billion out-of-state corporation, has plans to take advantage of Eastern Oregon. They are trying to do it as quickly and quietly as possible.

The proposed B2H transmission line from Hemingway, Idaho, to Boardman offers no direct benefit to anyone in Oregon. It will impact prime agricultural land and local landowners, degrade our wild lands, endanger our wildlife. Tourists travel to Eastern Oregon to escape crowds and industrialization. They come to hike or hunt, enjoy our relaxed pace of life, and enjoy our natural scenery.

I live in Baker City, where tourists come to visit the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. The B2H, as planned, will cross the trail eight times. Monster 200-foot-tall towers, less than a quarter mile from the Center's picture windows, will mar the view of the Oregon Trail. With the B2H, visitors will travel along 300 miles of transmission lines supported by steel towers as high as 16-story buildings, just as the people who visit and live on the Oregon coast will see miles and miles of drilling rigs.

I appreciate your strong statement on behalf of the residents of western Oregon. As governor for the whole state of Oregon, I would respectfully request that this same statement be made on behalf of the residents of Eastern Oregon.

JoAnn Marlette
Baker City

Cost of living continues to increase in Pendleton

In regards to high water and sewer rates in Pendleton, some people have the wrong answers. First, most of your utility bill is not from water usage. On my \$77.20 bill only \$3.40 is for water usage. If you cut down on water usage it makes little difference on your total bill.

The biggest part of your bill is the charge for sewer, \$39.15. This stays the same all year. A lot of this charge is for the improvements to the treatment plant. Next is base water rate, \$26.85, another year-round charge. A lot of this charge is for replacing old lines and installing larger lines to the airport.

Next is public safety charge, \$2.65, for fire equipment and police cars, etc. This is in addition to your property tax for the \$10 million fire bond. Last is street utility, \$5.15, for street repair. Streets have been a low priority for the city for years, but now they are trying to catch up with our money.

When you tie a service to a utility, the city can raise the cost to users at any time, without a vote of residents. And by tying the rates to Portland construction costs, the city council does not even have to vote on these rate increases. Very nice for council members to not have to endorse the rate increases.

It is much easier for government to raise fees then to cut parts of their budget. It is up to us, the residents of Pendleton. As long as we put up with ever increasing fees and voting for giant bond issues, Pendleton will never reach its full potential. We will keep bumping along with low growth and ever higher cost of living.

Elections are coming in May for city council and higher county taxes. It's up to you if you like the status quo or want Pendleton to move forward.

Rex J. Morehouse
Pendleton

Despite take permit, no Pilot Rock turkeys have been killed

Like I've said before, leave the turkeys alone and put the money towards a dog catcher. We have major problems with loose dogs! — Amanda Litzsinger

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