

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

# Tip of the Hat, kick in the pants

**A tip of the hat to Rep. Brian Clem, D-Salem,** and other lawmakers for the passage of House Bill 2579, one of those rare feel-good pieces of legislation that makes a real difference. Dubbed the “Farm to School” bill, the program assists area schools in buying locally grown produce. House Bill 2579 gives all school districts in the state access to grants to buy local and it helps students, area businesses and towns across the state.

The bill’s chief sponsor was Clem, who has been a champion of the program since he joined the Oregon House.

“I used to sit on a tractor during harvest and wonder if local fruit was being served at the school next to our orchard,” Rep. Clem said. “When I came to the legislature in 2007, I had a chance to change how our schools buy the food they serve in their lunchrooms. I’m proud of all the support that the Farm to School program has garnered over the years. Farm to School works by allowing school districts to be reimbursed for a portion of the cost of buying local products for the meals they serve.”

There isn’t any valid reason to keep local agriculture producers — if they wish — from providing products from their harvest to local students. This is a good program, and an example of good legislative judgement.

**A tip of the hat to local resident Tom Tangney** for nominating local resident — and Korean War combat veteran — Richard Allstott to be this year’s Pendleton Independence Day Parade grand marshal. Allstott grew up near Heppner and worked for the county road department.

He also answered the call from his country and serviced in the Korean War where he was wounded and decorated for valor. Now 90, Allstott doesn’t talk much about his wartime experiences but Tangney knew of his gallantry and pushed for his nomination for grand marshal. Both men deserve to be lauded. And we should all feel grateful for brave men like Allstott.

**A tip of the hat to the hundreds of demonstrators and trucks** that descended on Salem on Thursday to stage a protest rally against the state’s proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We’ve already stated our opinion of the proposal — House Bill



Jenny Chavez, program coordinator for the SNAP-Ed program, hands out samples of fruits and vegetables to students at Windy River Elementary School in 2014 in Boardman.

2020 — on this page and in this space but the individuals who appeared at the rally deserve some praise. That’s because they all exercised one of the most fundamental rights of our Republic — the right to assembly peacefully and express their discontent. The right to assemble and peacefully protest is ingrained into our political system and we should all be grateful.

The men and women who appeared at the state Capitol on Thursday were doing exactly what our founders intended to be a key bulwark in our political system.

**A tip of the hat to Oregon U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley** for his commitment to town hall meetings in the state. He won’t carry a lot of votes out of Morrow County — or Eastern Ore-

gon for that matter — but the fact that Merkley will hold another one of his annual town hall meetings in Boardman next week should be a good sign for voters.

That’s because Merkley, a Democrat, clearly doesn’t take the partisan train — which is often a common sight in Washington, D.C. — on a ride into the heartland of Oregon.

Merkley could ignore portions of the state where his political views are unpopular but he doesn’t. Instead he — and others in the Oregon federal delegation — view their service as one for all of Oregon, not just Democrats or Republicans.

We need more of that philosophy in our national political dialogue, not less.

## OTHER VIEWS

# Senate Republicans followed footsteps of Brown and Lincoln

Bend Bulletin

Oregon’s climate bill is apparently dead this session, and Democrats in the Legislature have only themselves to blame. The bill is a mess. We can’t get weepy about it.

The Legislature’s Democrats tried to wedge it through, paying scant attention to the views of the minority Republicans. That’s a privilege of being the party in power. It doesn’t make it right.

Senate Republicans walked out — some hiding in Idaho. Enough were gone to deny a quorum in the Senate, so it couldn’t meet. It meant House Bill 2020, which would cap carbon emissions in Oregon, and many other bills were likely to fail this session. The session is constitutionally mandated to end on June 30.

The climate bill aims to compel Oregon to get on the path to clean energy by raising the price of carbon-based fuels. Many Oregonians may get behind that concept. It’s the details that matter. For instance, the bill could be structured to return the hundreds of millions raised by the scheme to Oregonians. Instead, Democratic leaders wanted control over the money.

Also, remember what Senate Republicans have been after. “We do believe in taking action to reduce carbon emissions, but HB 2020 is an inefficient,

expensive, and constitutionally flawed bill that puts the livelihoods of many Oregonians at risk,” state Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, tweeted. “We are fighting to refer it to the ballot to let the people vote!”

Gov. Kate Brown and other Democrats criticized the walkout in a medley of put-downs. “The Republicans are driving us away from the values that Oregonians hold dear, and are moving us dangerously close to the self-serving stalemate in Washington, D.C.,” Brown said.

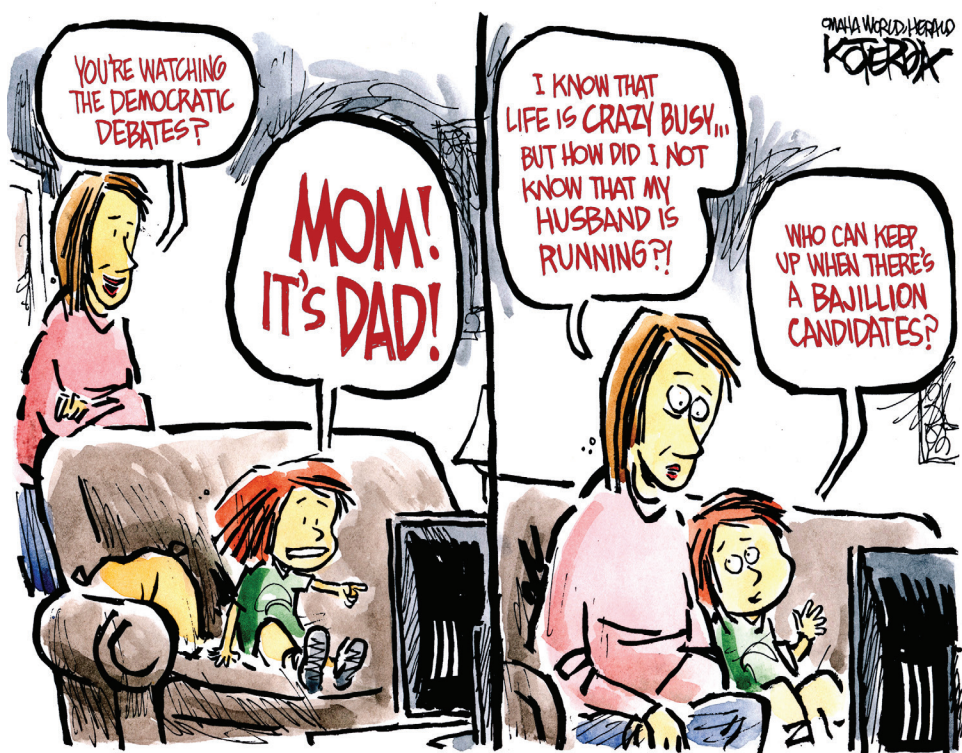
That’s a curious perspective from Brown. In 2001, when she was the leader of the Senate Democrats, Brown backed a walkout of House Democrats who didn’t like what House Republicans were doing in a fight over redistricting. She called the action by House Democrats “very appropriate under the circumstances.”

“Under certain circumstances, it’s fair to say we would use all the tools available to us,” she added.

If the words of Brown aren’t enough for you, what about the deeds of Honest Abe?

In 1840, when he was a member of the Illinois Legislature, Abraham Lincoln tried to deny a quorum by going out a window.

Surely Gov. Brown and Honest Abe put the Senate Republicans in fine company.



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