

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

Climate bill must take all Oregonians into consideration

Oregon Democrats look like they will once again try to roll out a plan to regulate the state’s greenhouse gas emissions in February when the Legislature convenes for its monthlong session.

While the effort to limit greenhouse gas emissions is an idea with merit, any plan to do so should be one with a lot of input from state voters. Voters should expect a well-crafted, methodical plan that addresses greenhouse gas emissions but also takes into account the unique needs, lifestyle and culture of the rural portions of the state.

During the last session, the debate over a greenhouse gas emission limit ignited frustration and eventually led to a walkout by GOP senators.

The plan then was touted as the best way forward, a thoroughbred that would solve lots of problems all at once.

Upon closer examination, though, the greenhouse gas emission plan pushed by Democratic lawmakers was hopelessly complicated and, instead of a race horse, voters greeted a one-trick pony.



Protesters flood the steps of the Oregon Capitol in June to push back against a Republican walkout over a climate change bill. Oregon Democrats look like they will once again try to roll out a plan to regulate the state’s greenhouse gas emissions in February when the Legislature convenes for its month-long session.

Now, Democratic lawmakers appear poised to put the bridle on the same one-trick pony and pull it onto the political stage.

That’s not a good idea.

Clearly, a suitable blueprint to limit

greenhouse gas emissions is in order. Climate change is a fact and while we can all argue about its cause; the reality is we need to do something about it.

But a wide-sweeping, hopelessly convoluted plan, such as the one tossed

in legislators’ laps last session, isn’t the answer.

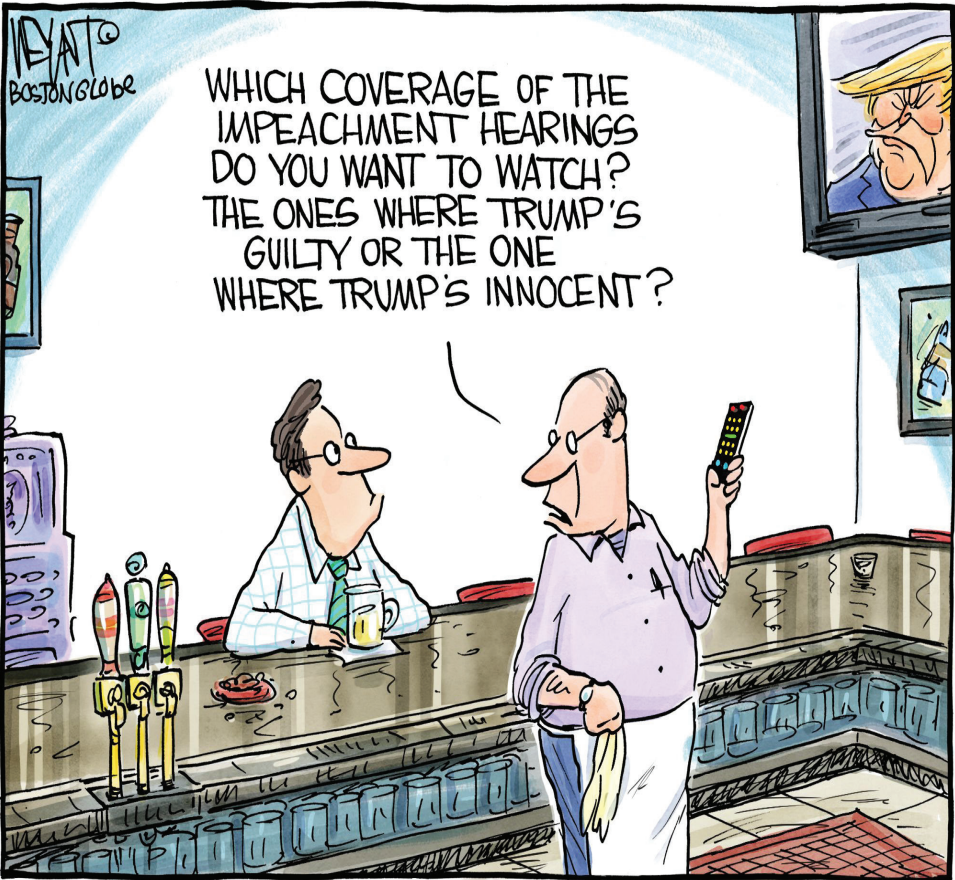
Lawmakers need to spend time — lots of it — configuring a plan that is workable. They need to spend even more time going out into the environs of the state and explaining the blueprint and why it is crucial.

Instead of kowtowing to environmental groups and donors, lawmakers who support a climate change bill need to listen to voters. Not just voters in a few counties in Oregon, but voters from across the state.

Ramming a climate change bill down the throats of voters and lawmakers — as was the case during the last legislative session — isn’t the answer.

This is a complicated subject that deserves careful, prudent study and review. There can be no rush to judgement on such an initiative.

We all want to do something to help the Earth and to limit climate change. But instead of hoping this pony will have more than one trick, let’s strive a bit higher and seek a compromise that works for everyone.



YOUR VIEWS

Impeachment editorial very disturbing

The editor of the Pendleton *East Oregonian* wrote an opinion in the Nov. 19 edition stating the impeachment proceedings are a waste of time and just out to make a statement. He says we should only remove a president by voting him out. Are you kidding me? That’s like saying we shouldn’t indict and take to trial Roger Stone or Paul Manafort or Michael Cohen or Rudy Giuliani because they are going to die eventually anyway, so why bother.

This isn’t just about removing Trump as an inept president, it’s about holding any citizen responsible for crimes he has committed. The evidence is pretty damning that Trump has committed crimes that violated the Constitution and tried to cover them up. In the process he tried to help Russia and damaged the ability of Ukraine to protect itself while trying to use his power to influence his re-election.

The impeachment investigation is about weighing the facts on whether Trump broke laws and committed constitutional violations. These hearings are very important and at the very least they show how corrupt this administration has been behaving. He may not get impeached and removed, but hopefully by the time it’s over the public has had a stomach full of him.

I am very disappointed that the *EO* edi-

torial staff makes light of the impeachment proceedings.

Dave and Viki Lange
Pendleton

School success determined by good teachers

I was pleased to learn that Hermiston passed the school bond to build a new school. Good buildings are important, but it is the teacher who makes the school, and a school is wherever a student can learn.

Anyone can learn from mountains, rivers, trees, birds, and just by listening, looking, and hearing the talk of other people, but it is the teacher who guides students to think, analyze, and determine.

Good teachers educate in many ways. Their base is usually a book, and good books are available. If a student cannot afford to purchase a book, there are public libraries filled with books on many subjects and for all ages. They are free to use and return.

Hermiston has a fine city library, as do most regional towns and cities. Libraries are places teachers often refer students go for learning. A school is as successful as the teachers who work there and the students who learn there.

Dr. Dorys C. Grover
Pendleton

FROM THE PUBLISHER We’re committed to local news

“Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.” — Mark Twain

In this vitriolic, hyper-partisan state in which America currently finds itself, I’m not sure we’re following the sage advice from Twain. Sure, there’s lots of distortion going around. I’m just not sure how open we are to getting the facts anymore. Can we all even agree on what the facts are?

I recently received a visit from an angry subscriber. After inviting this gentleman into my office, I was given notice that the *East Oregonian* was full of liberal tripe and was engaging in a deliberate effort to destroy our president. The question put before me was why the successful assassination of an ISIS terror leader three days earlier did not make the front page. Why were we not giving Donald Trump proper credit and accolades for all the good things he was doing?

I explained that our stock and trade was local, state and regional news (in that order) and on that particular day, the *EO* was so full of local news, features and sports stories about Pendleton, Hermiston, Umatilla County and the region that there was no room for national or international news. Truth be told, we strive for this result every issue. My visitor admitted he had already been exposed to wall-to-wall TV coverage of the events in question on Fox News and many other media sources that follow these types of national and international events.

The point I try to make in such cases is there are almost limitless resources for national and international news. One can even pick and choose the tone they would like their news delivered — with a conservative or liberal slant. But there are precious few media outlets that care about and consistently report on Northeast Oregon. That’s the niche the *EO* strives to fill.

A few days ago, the newspaper received a letter strongly disputing a recent *EO* editorial in which we predicted the ultimate fate of the House impeachment hearings, and suggested the best way to settle the question of Mr. Trump’s leadership was at the ballot box in 2020. In a message to our editor, a very agitated and longtime subscriber not only took us to task for expressing that viewpoint, but also made it quite clear that they considered the newspaper nothing more than a mouthpiece for the Trump administration.

So, depending on the source, the newspaper is either a left-wing, Trump-hating, “fake news” organ or it’s a right-wing, Trump-loving, corruption-enabling propaganda machine. Which is it? The answer depends on the reader’s personal bias.

As I’ve learned over the years, charges of

bias tell as much, or more, about the person making the accusation as it does about the object of the accusation. Bias is often in the eye of the beholder.

The five individuals comprising our editorial board (listed at the top of page A4 every day) represent a wide swath of political and philosophical beliefs. Hence, we only editorialize when there is general consensus among the group. In a practical sense, this means that we are likely to anger readers on either the right or the left of the political spectrum from time to time.

If you subscribe to a local newspaper, thank you for your commitment to supporting local journalism and being an informed citizen. But dear reader, please be advised: If you have strong political beliefs one direction or another, it is not only possible, but highly probable, that you will eventually read or see something in the pages of this newspaper that will make you angry — a sharply worded letter to the editor, a cartoon that pokes fun at your political hero, an editorial that comes to a differing conclusion than you would like.

In this angry political season that we currently find ourselves, it seems that otherwise reasonable men and women are compelled to lash out at one another. So many of us have already dug in our heels and made up our minds that the intake of new information (facts) has stopped. We’ve quit listening to one another.

For this reason, and because the *EO*’s primary mission is to inform our readers about news in their own backyard, we will temporarily suspend any further newspaper editorials from our local editorial board related to what is happening at the national political level. The rhetoric has become too overheated on both sides of the political aisle to engage in a meaningful dialogue.

Instead, we will focus on our local, county, and state governments. We will continue to publish syndicated columnists representing multiple viewpoints and who may hold forth on any number of national topics. We will continue to also welcome letters to the editor, as we do not wish to abridge the right of others to speak out publicly if they so desire.

Lastly, you may see a national or international story occasionally make the pages of the *East Oregonian*, but it will be the exception. Our primary focus will continue to be the type of local news and information that you just won’t find anywhere else.



CHRIS RUSH
COMMENT

Chris Rush is the regional publisher for the *East Oregonian*, *Hermiston Herald*, *La Grande Observer*, *Baker City Herald*, *Wallowa County Chieftain* and *Blue Mountain Eagle*.