

OPINION

VOICE of the CHIEFTAIN

Initial failure of IP 13 is a good thing

The A1 story in today's paper says that Initiative Petition 13 appears it will fall short of gathering the signatures needed to make it to the November ballot.

We celebrate that fact.

We opined on it several months ago, but as we read the initiative, it's a takeover — or an attempt at destruction — of the way of life for many in Oregon, yet one that is pitched as an animal rights bill.

To be certain, nobody on our staff — and we hope nobody at all, though it's likely some are out there — feels it is right to abuse an animal. Nor do hunters, fishers or those who work cattle for a living, to name just a few. There is a realization when you hunt — and, if you indeed, are successful — that you are taking the life of an animal for food. That reality should — and, we believe, does — garner respect and care, and requires it be done in a humane way.

We assume that those who crafted IP 13 also care about animals, though we believe they go a step way too far in what they are promoting. As we read the petition, it seems to us to say that any killing of animals should be outlawed. That practices of animal husbandry to continue building up a flock or herd should be considered sexual abuse. That even events such as a rodeo, or simply hauling animals in a trailer would be outlawed. Perhaps we have gone to the extreme in our take on the petition, but it's hard not to see how that is what the supporters want.

Lewis & Clark College law professor Russ Mead doesn't have quite the view we do. In the story, he says he believes the initiative wouldn't ban those actions, but just say that they should be done in a humane way.

"The result is not that hunting and killing livestock will be illegal if IP 13 passes, it is just that when you hunt, you need to be humane," he said. "When you kill livestock, you need to be humane."

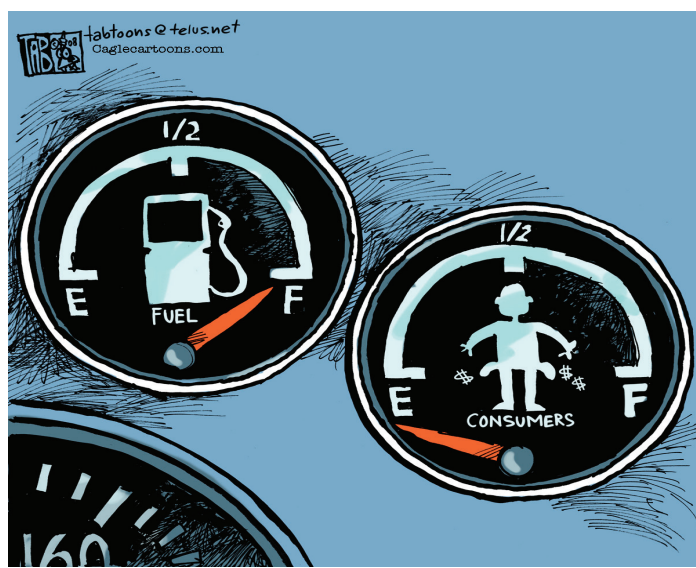
He later says that should IP 13 eventually make it to the ballot — be it in 2024 or later — and pass, it would face ample legal challenges and discussions, including one about the legal definition of animal cruelty.

Perhaps he is right on both points. Perhaps how the law is interpreted would make it less severe than what we read it to be. And there is no doubt that it would face a major legal battle.

At least for now, it appears, this is an initiative that won't see the light of day for a couple of years, though we hope it never does again.

Then, we could really celebrate.

WHICH EXPENSIVE TRIP DID THE AVERAGE FAMILY TAKE LAST YEAR?



LETTER to the EDITOR

'How's that working?' you ask. 'Quite well,' I say

Editor's note: The following letter is a response to a postcard received by the letter writer, the contents of which she describes in the letter.

Dear Anonymous Friend,
In the absence of an identity, I'll take the liberty of assuming friendship. I got your lovely post card of the Oregon Coast, so thanks for that.
I'm a little perplexed by the situation you present me with. You apparently were moved enough to save a clipping of my letter to the editor from (checking records more than a year old) January of 2021. Wow! Not sure if that is good or bad — have you been seething with indignant outrage all this time? Or have you been waiting for just the right moment to really let me have it with your succinct but withering "How's that working?" question in reply to the Scotch-taped clip-

ping titled "I plan to enjoy the Biden presidency?"
Yeah, that stings all right. Good one. In any case, I'm a little sad that with all the effort you took to first hang on to the paper clipping for a year-plus, then use your internet spy craft to track down my address, put stamp to postcard, engage the U.S. Postal Service, and yet provide no signature, phone number, or return address where I could reply and begin our pen-pal relationship.
My father used to say that anonymity is the last refuge of cowards. He was a strong believer in the thought that if it's worth having a belief or an opinion, it's worth putting your name to it. Minds can and should get changed based on further information or discussion. I'm not my father. The world we live in lends itself more to the anonymous airing of grievance (and worse) than the world he grew up in. I don't necessarily consider you a coward, just someone whose mind is possibly made up and closed to discussion.

Bearing that in mind, I feel compelled to answer your question.
As to your "how's that working?" question, I can say in all honesty, it's working pretty well — nobody's perfect, and President Biden is no exception. It's a complicated world and he's working with a divided Congress and population. When I think about where we might be right now if a free and fair election had been overturned due to strong pressure and antidemocratic efforts by the former president, I'm positively, enthusiastically just tickled pink. I shudder to think of the consequences for the Ukraine and the world if that had happened. If you'd like a more in-depth discussion of where I think he's done well vs. areas where I've been disappointed, I'm happy to have that discussion — pen pal or over coffee.
The first step would be for you to send me your address. You know where I am. Hope to hear from you.
Mary Chlopek Lostine

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