

**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
 Florence, OR 97439

# Opinion



## LETTERS

### Corporate bullying in Lane County

Democracy keeps on taking hits from special interests. Last summer, former state deputy attorney general and Eugene attorney Stan Long

attempted to grant power to the county commissioners to decide what initiatives Lane County citizens can and can't vote on.

This came on the heels of a June proposal by Eugene business owner and conservative political fundraiser Dennis Morgan to block any local initiatives that commissioners deemed not worthy "of county concern."

The community's reaction was swift in telling commissioners, "Don't dare mess with the People's business."

The commissioners dropped the plan which many felt was clearly corporate-interest concocted.

However, democracy in action was lost on Mr. Long, who went on to file a lawsuit claiming the county erred in approving an initiative to ban aerial herbicide spray on private forest lands in Lane County — in essence attempting to override the people's right to govern themselves over the interests of corporations.

The lawsuit is absurd, largely because Mr. Long failed to voice his complaints within the clearly allocated 60-day window allowed. I can't imagine the courts rewarding tardiness.

The hearing date is set for Feb. 3, and I hope everyone marks their calendars to pack the courtroom.

Mucking with direct democracy, whether by changing the rules in the middle of the game or gaming the courts, is bad news no matter what one's political stripes may be.

Muting people's political speech and ultimately the people's right of self-government brings us a step closer to the rule of the corporate class.

I won't sit idle. Besides protesting this court

case, I will do my part to make sure the the aerial spray ban and the right of local community self-government initiatives make it to the ballot and are ultimately voted on by the people.

Corporate bullies beware.

*Michelle Holman  
 Deadwood*

### A different reality

I was bewildered by the assertions made by Pamela Richardson in her letter to the editor ("Not Grounded in Reality," Jan. 4). She stated that the spike in hate crimes and bigotry are things she lays "...at Obama's doorstep," and that "since he took office 8 years ago, the deaths of law enforcement has risen dramatically."

This inspired me to check her claim.

I went to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund Website. They list the number of law enforcement deaths, year by year, from 1791 to today.

What I discovered was that during George W. Bush's two terms, there were 715 deaths in the first term, followed by 660 in the second term — for a total of 1,375.

During President Obama's two terms, there were 594 in his first four years and 489 law enforcement deaths in his second term — for a total of 1,083.

There were nearly 300 fewer police officers killed during the last 8 years than during the Bush administration.

These facts show a different "reality" than the one suggested by Pamela Richardson's letter.

In regard to hatred and bigotry — things that were also laid at Obama's doorstep — most

Americans, have heard President-elect Trump refer to people as "losers," talk freely about grabbing women, call Mexicans "rapists and murderers" and suggested the creation of a Muslim registry. As a fifth-generation American of Mexican descent, I am deeply offended by this.

My four uncles who served in World War II would also be offended.

In short, he is pretty hateful in the way he talks about some people. This includes the news media, which he has called "disgusting" and "liars."

The Free Press was enshrined in the Constitution by our forefathers to place checks and balance on power in our country. It is chilling to me how he continually denigrates the press because it is something that many dictators do.

It's our right as Americans to support who we choose.

However, please don't tell those of us who did not support Trump that it was Obama who brought the hate.

It's not factual and definitely not "reality."  
*Stephanie Spradling  
 Florence*

### The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters or poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:

Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com

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John Bartlett  
 Jenna Bartlett  
 Ned Hickson  
 Susan Gutierrez  
 Cathy Dietz  
 Ron Annis  
 Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 327  
 General Manager, ext. 318  
 Editor, ext. 313  
 Advertising Director, ext. 326  
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312  
 Production Supervisor  
 Press Manager

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## WHERE TO WRITE

Pres. Barack Obama  
 The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20500  
 Comments: 202-456-1111  
 Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
 FAX: 202-456-2461  
 TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213  
 www.whitehouse.gov

Gov. Kate Brown  
 160 State Capitol  
 900 Court St.  
 Salem, OR 97301-4047  
 Governor's Citizens' Rep.  
 Message Line 503-378-4582  
 www.oregon.gov/gov

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden  
 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg  
 Washington, DC 20510

202-224-5244  
 541-431-0229  
 www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley  
 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
 Washington, DC 20510  
 202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997  
 541-465-6750  
 www.merkley.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (4th Dist.)  
 2134 Rayburn HOB  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 202-225-6416  
 541-269-2609/ 541-465-6732  
 www.defazio.house.gov

State Sen. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 5)  
 900 Court St. NE - S-417  
 Salem, OR 97301

503-986-1705  
 FAX: 503-986-1080  
 Email:  
 Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us

State Rep. Caddy McKeown  
 (Dist. 9)  
 900 Court St. NE  
 Salem, OR 97301  
 503-986-1409  
 Email:  
 rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

West Lane County Commissioner  
 Jay Bozievich  
 125 E. Eighth St.  
 Eugene, OR 97401  
 541-682-4203  
 FAX: 541-682-4616  
 Email:  
 Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us