

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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.

“I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.” —Thomas Jefferson (1800)

Educate yourself about danger of fracking to environment

(Editor’s Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

I love our beautiful state of Oregon; the high desert, the mountains and especially our incredible coastal lakes, rivers and beaches. Growing up in the ’50s and ’60s near Lake Erie in Ohio, I lived through two-headed fish in Lake Erie, the Cuyahoga River catching on fire and the bright-red sunsets from the steel mill in the next city. All this was before the Clean Air Act (1970) and Clean Water Act (1972). Coming to Oregon in 1975 was the best move I have ever made. We truly have it all. The natural beauty of Oregon is beyond compare, which is why we all need to educate ourselves on the

current threat to our rivers, streams, forests, wildlife, air quality and recreational access to our protected areas. The Jordan Cove Energy Project is a proposal to build a 229-mile fracked

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Julia Tousley-Ritt
Westlake

gas pipeline across Southwestern Oregon and a Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) export terminal in Coos Bay. The Canadian company Pembina wants to build the 229-mile pipeline from Malin, Ore., to Coos Bay, crossing 400 rivers, streams and other waterways including the Rogue, Klamath, Coos and South Umpqua rivers. This is a project that has been denied twice over the last 13 years. But now, with loosened regulations and secrecy, this Canadian company is

trying again. The Army Corps. of Engineers and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are seeking public comments as they review two Clean Water Act permit applications for Jordan Cove. We each have a responsibility to educate ourselves about this project, which you can do on July 16, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library. Learn about the scientific facts related to fracked gas, pipeline leaks, dredging for 900-foot tankers coming into Coos Bay, and other concerns that we, as Oregonians, should understand. I urge anyone who values protecting the things that make Oregon beautiful to learn about this project and, just as importantly, who stands to benefit most from this project.



LETTERS

OPPOSITION TO THE SECOND AMENDMENT

It has come to my attention that Citibank, in March, and then Bank of America in April, took a stand in opposition to the Second Amendment by declaring their intention to accept no “new retail sector clients” that sell guns to 18- to 20-year-olds or sell “high capacity” magazines — thus discriminating against those businesses, as well as young adults and the lawful right of citizens to buy and bear arms. The precedent being set here is alarming. They ignore that the gun sellers being discriminated against are not merely engaged in business, but in a business protected by the Constitution. They ignore that 18- to 20-year-olds proudly serving in the military use armament to protect this great nation, yet they support a policy to deny them the right to make a purchase to protect themselves at home. Their divisive policy further divides this great country when all concerned need to come together to find constructive solutions to the problem instead of naive attempts by

elite CEOs and out-of-touch corporate boards that usurp our Constitution. Let’s ask the obvious question: In March and April, the target was the right to bear arms. What about tomorrow? Will it be free speech? Women’s rights? Sexual orientation? Religious affiliation or any other constitutionally protected conduct corporate disagrees with? Once becoming accustomed to imposing political preconditions upon clients and loans, there presumably will be no stopping their political

manipulation. What is to stop a newspaper editor from being told that to become a client or secure a loan, it is contingent upon his newspaper dropping ... let’s say, certain unpopular positions? It is a slippery slope. More importantly, a dangerous one when Citibank, or Bank of America — or any business or organization — tries to usurp our constitutionally protected rights through “market power.” — Gerald Duane “Boomer” Wright
Reedsport



WHERE TO WRITE

PRES. DONALD TRUMP 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	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
OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN 160 State Capitol 900 Court St. Salem, Ore. 97301-4047 Governor’s Citizens’ Rep. Message Line: 503-378-4582 www.oregon.gov/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@oregonlegislature.gov
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