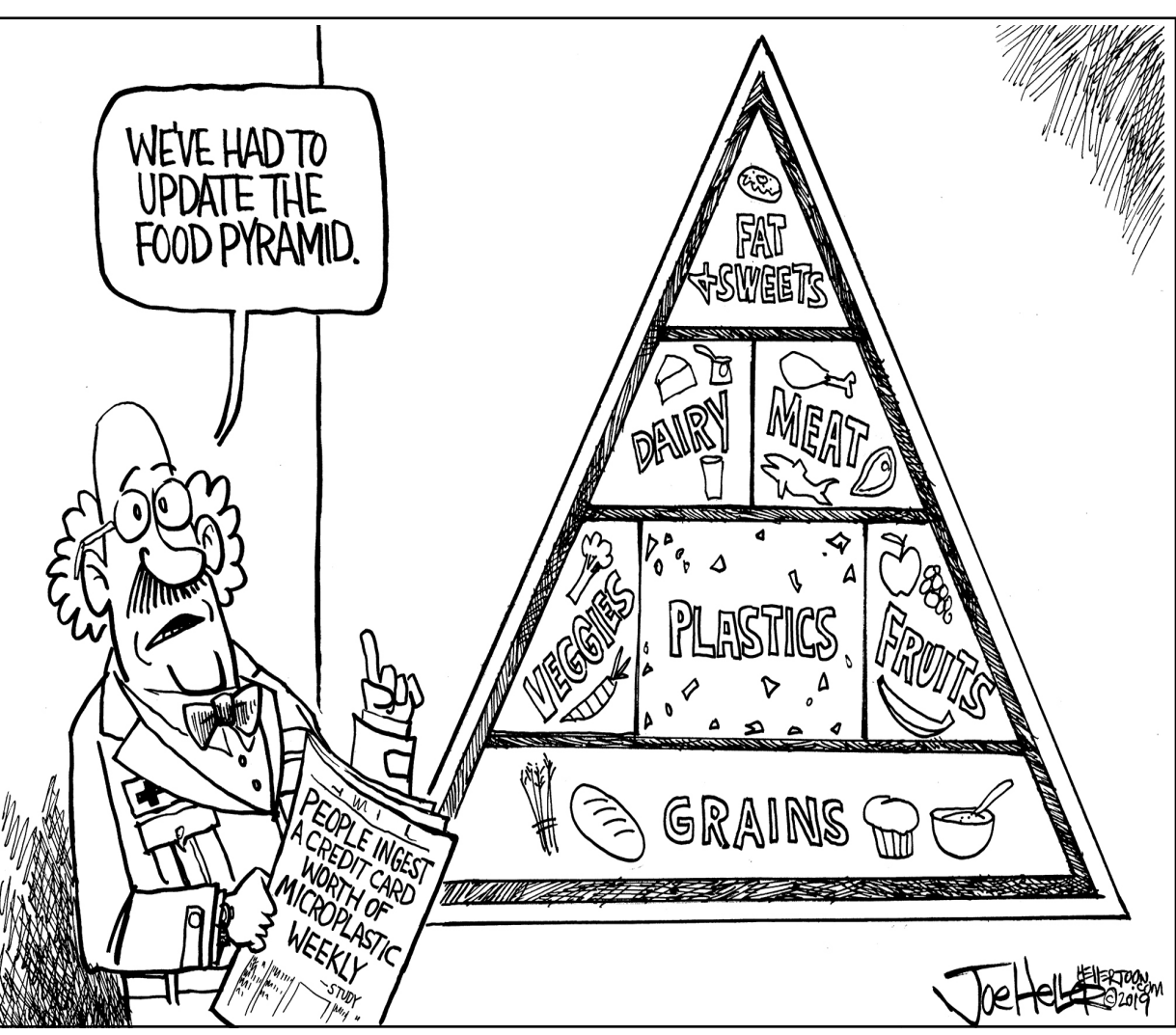


Siuslaw News
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Opinion

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)



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Senator Roblan gives mixed message on 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.)

There are two catastrophic threats to our environment, one from plastics and the other from a manmade climate crisis. Both of these threats have been addressed in the Oregon State Legislature.

How has our state Senator Arnie Roblan addressed these threats?

First, I'd like to thank Senator Roblan for his vote to ban plastic bags. This is a much needed action as Oregon joins other states.

But I was dismayed and very disappointed when Senator Roblan joined with Republicans to defeat a statewide ban on Styrofoam. We in Florence worked very hard to get the

city to ban polystyrenes and eventually were successful, although only for a limited type of packaging. Our hopes were that a statewide ban would fill in where our City failed in its coverage.

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Michael Allen
Florence

I have picked up trash several times a year along Highway 126 and on our beaches. In addition to plastic bags I found lots of Styrofoam packaging, all of which would have found its way to our river and ocean.

Senator Roblan explained that his "no" vote "was in response to the concerns of rural communities and schools, specifically on the unintended impact this would have on their disposal programs."

Unfortunately, he did not consider the overriding need to maintain a safe environment for all Oregon residents.

There may be a second time Senator Roblan deserts his Democratic colleagues and constituents. It has been widely reported that Senator Roblan is uncertain about his support of the "cap and invest" bill, HB 2020, which addresses the climate crisis. HB 2020 passed the House 30-24, despite Representative Caddy McKeown's "no" vote. The vote will be a much closer in the Senate making Senator Roblan's vote all the more important.

It is my hope that Senator Roblan will do what's right to protect us from the harmful effects of Styrofoam and the existential threat of climate change.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. 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.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) Explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

Email letters to:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

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