

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

# 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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## Siuslaw News

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Jenna Bartlett  
 Ned Hickson  
 Susan Gutierrez  
 Cathy Dietz  
 Ron Annis

Publisher, ext. 318  
 Editor, ext. 313  
 Multimedia Sales Director, ext. 326  
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312  
 Production Supervisor

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**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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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](mailto:nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov)

**U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN**  
 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg  
 Washington, DC 20510  
 202-224-5244  
 541-431-0229  
[www.wyden.senate.gov](http://www.wyden.senate.gov)

**STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN**  
 (DIST. 9)  
 900 Court St. NE  
 Salem, OR 97301  
 503-986-1409  
 Email: [rep.caddyckewon@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.caddyckewon@oregonlegislature.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](http://www.merkley.senate.gov)

**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](mailto:Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us)



## We can act locally and think globally

**(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.)**

In his Letter to the Editor "Does it really have to be all or nothing?" (Nov. 2), Matt Danielsson asks, "How can anyone possibly hope to bridge the gap and reach the hearts and minds of 'the other side' if a minor disagreement with someone already sharing all the same basic concerns manages to offend you?"

What he fails to appreciate is that the offense was generated not so much by this so-called "minor disagreement" but by the tone of his original letter ("Focus On Deeds Rather Than Words," Oct. 26).

In that letter, he suggested that there are only two kinds of people dealing with environmental issues: those like him, who actually do something in small, local ways; and those who "seem to be more concerned about yelling at the other people to do things, rather than actually doing much of anything

themselves." He accuses these presumed non-doers of merely "posting rants on social media and holding angry speeches [which have] exactly zero benefit except as virtue signaling to

**GUEST VIEWPOINT**  
 By Debra Walker  
 Florence resident

the club of likeminded also vying to be the Highest Paragon of Goodness."

But as Patricia Burke pointed out in her letter ("Do Something Rather Than Talking About It," Oct. 30), it is possible to be both kinds of people at the same time, and that, in fact, the sign-holders here are the same folks cleaning up litter from the sides of local highways and clearing invasive species from our dunes.

I would understand if she had also taken offense to Mr. Danielsson's accusation of "posturing" to "generate a ... 'Like' on Facebook."

Personally, I was offended by his assertion "that me or anyone reading this will never have one iota of say in the international political machina-

tions required to fix the problem. So why fret over things that are so obviously beyond our control?"

That "whaddaya gonna do?" attitude is what enables horrible things to happen every day — and it is patently false. In this country we do have a say every time we vote. We have a say when we contact our elected representatives to share our opinion on an issue.

We can even write to the president of the United States, if we've a mind to. We can do all those things and do something small and local, like planting a tree. Because it's no good to plant a tree if it's just going to die from the acid rain resulting from China's coal-burning power plants.

So we need to do all the things we can to fix this problem.

Act locally, and think globally.

To answer Mr. Danielsson's question, the way "to bridge the gap and reach the hearts and minds" of others is to remember that the secret to effective communication is tone as well as words.

And don't assume you know everything a person is doing when you see them holding a sign.

**LETTERS**

**CONGRESS, DO YOUR DUTY**

I've been witnessing the actions of presidents and administrations since I was 15 years old. I've seen strong presidents come and go and, as a member of the citizenry, recognize true strength in a president.

What I see today is a wealthy, spoiled man who knows nothing about our beloved U.S. Constitution or diplomacy, and who makes rash decisions based upon his ego.

I've never seen a president make so many illogical decisions requiring him to go back and change his mind on decisions, agreements and policies.

I am embarrassed.

Now, apparently, he says the tariffs imposed on China were too severe — something that many others, including in his own party, seemed to understand from the beginning.

But clearly, we can't look to Mitch McConnell to reason with this president. In fact, it appears the entire Republican administration is slipping into the darkness being brought on by a ranting, Tweeting president.

Congress, do your duty, gain some courage and help your colleagues across the aisle to impeach him along with those enablers that surround him.

Save our democracy and deliver us from a growing corporate

dictatorship. Otherwise, I predict you will all go down in history as the ones who saw what was happening and did nothing.

—Wende Jarman  
 Florence

**THANKS TO OUR MANY HEROES**

I wish to thank our military. They are my heroes.

I am so tired of the disrespect shown to our law enforcement officers.

They are also my heroes.

I am also tired of the contempt shown to our boarder patrol — he-

roes all.

The individuals who put their lives on the line every day, including ICE agents, firefighters and the families who love and support them.

They are also my heroes.

These men and women run toward trouble and danger instead of away from it.

They have my thanks and gratitude for everything they do for this country.

May God bless them.

—Lynne Furby  
 Florence

