

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)

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2021 © Siuslaw News

Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

Jenna Bartlett
 Ned Hickson
 Cathy Dietz
 Ron Annis
 For Advertising: ext. 318

Publisher, ext. 318
 Editor, ext. 313
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312
 Production Supervisor
 For Classifieds: ext. 320

DEADLINES:
 Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.

Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$79; 6-month in-county, \$56; 10-week subscription, \$25; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$102; 6-month out-of-county, \$69; 10-week subscription, \$35; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$134; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
 Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com

Siuslaw News

Office: 148 Maple St./PO Box 10 Florence, OR 97439
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday: 8 a.m. to noon

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 un-sourced 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

WHERE TO WRITE

- PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN**
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
 Washington, D.C. 20500
 Comments: 202-456-1111
 Switchboard: 202-456-1414
 TTY/TDD: 202-456-6213
 www.whitehouse.gov
- STATE SEN. DICK ANDERSON (DIST. 5)**
 900 Court St. NE - S-417
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1705
 Email: Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov
- OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN**
 160 State Capitol 900 Court St.
 Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
 Message Line:
 503-378-4582
 www.oregon.gov/gov
- STATE REP. BOOMER WRIGHT (DIST. 9)**
 900 Court St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1409
 Email: Rep.BoomerWright@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
- LANE COUNTY DIST. 1 COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH**
 125 E. Eighth St.
 Eugene, OR 97401
 541-682-4203
 Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us
- U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY**
 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-3753 | 541-465-6750
 www.merkley.senate.gov
- FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR JOE HENRY**
 Florence City Hall, 250
 Highway 101, Florence, 97439
 541-997-3437
 ci.florence.or.us
 Email comments to Florence
 City Recorder Kelli Weese at
 kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us
- 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



Is Florence essential in the fight to curb climate change?

(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.)

When it comes to fighting climate change the good news is that globally more and more cities are taking action. The bad news is that few are focusing on the most important ways to impact greenhouse gas emissions.

Of the 812 cities surveyed by the nonprofit Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), less than half have a detailed plan to address climate change.

So, Florence is not alone when it comes to avoiding the most pressing issue of our time.

CDP has provided a comprehensive dataset on corporate and city climate action. See their re-[port at www.cdp.net/en/research/global-reports/cities-on-the-route-to-2030](http://www.cdp.net/en/research/global-reports/cities-on-the-route-to-2030)

In addition, the CDP's data-

set demonstrates it is true that cities are essential in the fight to curb global warming. This is because globally they are responsible for about three-quar-

GUEST VIEWPOINT
 By Michael Allen
 Florence environmental advocate

ters of greenhouse gas emissions and use about two-thirds of the world's energy. I reported these same statistics when I appeared before the City Council on July 15, 2019.

Disclosing climate disruptions is the first step to help cities understand their climate risks. After that they should develop a plan with short- and long-term targets and a procedure for regularly reporting progress.

This plan must be aligned with clearly defined science-based targets.

Buildings, transport, energy and waste have the most potential to reduce emissions, according to the CDP report.

Climate scientists say emissions need to be halved by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 to keep warming at or close to the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

It will require robust action by all our cities, large and small, to reach these goals.

I am again urging the Florence City Council to respond to our climate petition which now has 391 signatories.

Our petition simply asks Florence to join with many other cities by recognizing we have a climate emergency and form a community-based commission charged with developing a comprehensive climate action plan.

Time is rapidly running out. Florence must act now.

