

## EDITORIALS &amp; OPINIONS

The Bulletin  
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERHeidi Wright  
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# What will your tax dollars buy for the river?

The Bend Park & Recreation District is looking at a list of 33 projects that could improve river habitat and impact access to the river. Is the district splurging or are the projects necessary? Are the projects wrong-headed or dead right?

The projects change river access for people, parking, where dogs can go in the river and more. Who pays for it? You do. It will be your taxes at work, though some of the funding for the projects will likely come from grants or community partnerships.

While the city of Bend is considering reducing parking requirements across the city, staff is recommending the park district add more parking at Riverbend Park. That's based on survey responses and other feedback. Is that what you want?

A permanent off-leash dog river access point seems to be making it on the list for Riverbend Park. But based on the feedback the district has received already, staff recommends that two other seasonal access points be scrapped. Is that what you want? It's far from the end of the debate in the plan about dogs and the river.

A potential project at Pioneer Park would remove the rock wall and create a riparian area. That's the project survey respondents disagreed with the most. The district says the project would be costly and is unlikely to be completed in the district's near-term plans. Staff recommends taking the project off the list. Is that what you want?

We just picked a few projects that might get you interested. There's more information on the district's website here: [tinyurl.com/Bendparkplan](http://tinyurl.com/Bendparkplan). And the park board is scheduled to get a presentation from staff on the plan at its meeting Tuesday. Tell it what you think it should do. You can email the park board at [board@bendpark-sandrec.org](mailto:board@bendpark-sandrec.org) or write us a letter to the editor of up to 250 words and send it to [letters@bendbulletin.com](mailto:letters@bendbulletin.com).

# Historical editorials: Not from Portland

Editor's note: The following historical editorials originally appeared in what was then called *The Bend Bulletin* on April 6, 1906.

It may be true that the technically legal election of the United States senator will be by the legislature, but it will also be true that the legislature will elect the candidate who receives the heaviest popular vote.

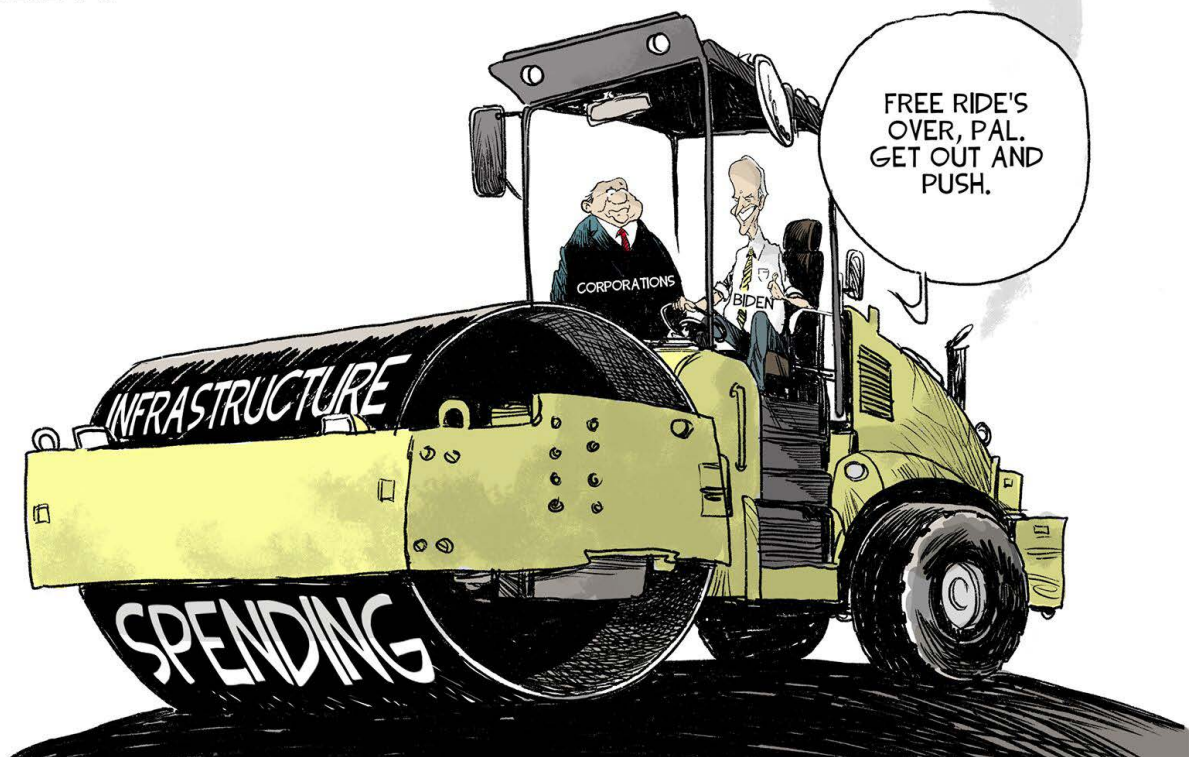
The people are coming into the habit of asserting their powers these days. If old laws and old customs stand in the way, disregard them. The formal phrases, the mere husks, of the law are not to prevent the people from exercising the power that is rightly theirs. If members of the legislature undertake to carry into effect their "superior wisdom" nonsense by choosing a senator in defiance of the popular selection, such legislators will go to their political graves. This certainly — not any set statute — is what gives force to state-ment No. 1 The people will rule.

Therefore, the popular vote for senator is important, and every worker should consider seriously his vote for this office. Our next senator should be a clean man, a man of experience in affairs, a man of dignity and force of character, and it would be just as well if he did not come

from the corporation-ridden city of Portland.

It appears that the U.S. Senate has at last read the handwriting upon the wall and profited thereby. News comes from Washington that a railroad rate bill will be passed containing a provision for review by the courts, thus securing the measure from being declared unconstitutional. The bill as now outlined embodies the recommendations of the president and promises to be an efficient remedy for the evils of present day railroad administration. Shortly after his retirement from the war department, Secretary Root, at a speech at a banquet in New York, defended the president against the charge of a dangerous radical by saying that the disposition of the president to force the great corporate interests of the country to obey the letter and spirit of the law, stamped his as the greatest conservative force in the government today. When equal protection under the law is long denied a people, history shows that they will finally appeal to the law of the strong arm, after all the final appeal in any controversy.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



## GUEST COLUMN

# Ambulatory surgery centers commit to safety, including surgical smoke

BY CAMMY GILSTRAP, NEAL MAERKI, NEIL ALLEN AND CHRIS D. SKAGEN

Physicians go into health care with the goal to help people. Ambulatory surgery centers, or ASCs, are licensed health facilities that are either partially or wholly owned by these physicians, and their goal never changes to provide the best care possible for their patients. In order to accomplish this goal, physicians employ a team of clinical experts and develop comprehensive policies and procedures to safeguard not only the patient but also the staff working in the ASC.

The March 17 op-ed article written by Brenda Larkin, overstated the problem with surgical smoke. The Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses, AORN, is developing unnecessary legislation to create yet another layer of regulatory burden on health care facilities. A majority of ASCs have already voluntarily adopted policies for the evacuation of surgical smoke during appropriate procedures. They have partnered with AORN to provide education to clinical experts around the state about the potential hazards and how facilities can best mitigate these risks. The state trade association and the Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association ([www.ascoregon.org](http://www.ascoregon.org)) promote the AORN-developed surgical smoke policy for those that do not already have one in effect.

Local Bend ASC administrators have discussed this issue and have collectively agreed that all safety precautions are taken when the use of cautery is present and creates a smoke plume. A smoke evacuator is used and/or N95s worn when it is anticipated that a smoke plume would be generated

by a Bovie or laser. It is important to note that ASCs do not perform nearly the number or types of procedures that generate a lot of smoke as the hospital does. ASCs use proper personal protective equipment and have air exchange rates that exceed requirements set by the state to protect public health and safety.

Additionally, ASCs promote a culture of community, transparency and communication with all staff at the facility. ASC administrators highly encourage operating room staff to bring safety concerns forward, and our surgeons take raised safety concerns seriously. ASCs are small businesses, and we enjoy a positive work environment and closer working relationships than some larger operating room environments.

Surgical smoke evacuation systems should not be used in every case. Not every case produces surgi-

cal smoke. Surgeons and nurses are capable of determining which cases generate smoke, and when the need for increased safety precautions are indicated. If any unsafe practice exists within any facility's operating room, the leadership in that facility should address it, and have existing policies and practices, including staff education. The facility should foster an environment where staff feel comfortable bringing safety concerns forward, and a means for them to do so.

*The Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses, AORN, is developing unnecessary legislation to create yet another layer of regulatory burden on health care facilities.*

The Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association has a tag line of "our patients come first," and it appropriately underscores our commitment to a safe operating room environment. ASCs here are committed to be an integral part of the Bend community, in providing safe and cost effective surgical procedures for patients as well as quality employment for the staff of our facilities.

The authors are Cammy Gilstrap, RN, the CSC Director at Cascade Surgicenter; Neal Maerki, RN, CAS, is the administrator at Bend Surgery Center; Neil Allen is administrator at Deschutes Surgery Center; Chris D. Skagen, JD, MELP, is executive director of the Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association.

## Letters policy

We welcome your letters. Letters should be limited to one issue, contain no more than 250 words and include the writer's signature, phone number and address for verification. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject poetry, personal attacks, form letters, letters submitted elsewhere and those appropriate for other sections of The Bulletin. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

## Guest columns

Your submissions should be between 550 and 650 words; they must be signed, and they must include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject those submitted elsewhere. Locally submitted columns alternate with national columnists and commentaries. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

## How to submit

Please address your submission to either My Nickel's Worth or Guest Column and mail, fax or email it to The Bulletin. Email submissions are preferred.

Email: [letters@bendbulletin.com](mailto:letters@bendbulletin.com)

Write: My Nickel's Worth/Guest Column  
P.O. Box 6020  
Bend, OR 97708

Fax: 541-385-5804

Editorials reflect the views of The Bulletin's editorial board, Publisher Heidi Wright, Editor Gerry O'Brien and Editorial Page Editor Richard Coe. They are written by Richard Coe.

# Biden's infrastructure plan does not come at a cost to jobs

BY GERNOT WAGNER

Bloomberg  
"Once you put capital money to work, jobs are created."

These are not the words of President Joe Biden, announcing his administration's infrastructure plan in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. Nor were they the words of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, standing on a train platform to announce expanded service, or of any of the administration's economists charged with touting the virtues of the \$2.25 trillion spending plan.

It was Michael Morris, then-CEO of Ohio utility American Electric Power, who uttered them on an investor call a decade ago. AEP was fighting an Environmental Protection Agency proposal to reduce mercury and other pollutants from power plants, citing the expense of creating jobs to install new scrubbers on smokestacks or build cleaner plants. Morris, taking his fiduciary

responsibility to the utility's investors seriously, argued these new roles would come at a cost to AEP and were, thus, bad. What he did not question, and correctly so, was whether more investments would indeed create more jobs.

All that held particularly true in 2011 since the economy, slowly emerging from the Great Recession, was far from full employment. As Josh Bivens, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, testified at the time in favor of EPA's air toxins rules: "There is no better time than now, from a job-creation perspective, to move forward with these rules."

The economy is once again far from full employment. That made the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, passed last month, so important. It is also a clear point for passing the infrastructure package now, and for spending the money soon.

"Jobs versus the environment" is an old trope. There are indeed some real trade-offs. When a tree cannot

be cut to protect the northern spotted owl, the tree cutter is out of a job. Climate is different.

Cutting CO<sub>2</sub> isn't about stopping economic activity, as last year's COVID-19 lockdowns have vividly shown. Even the near-total lockdowns last April only decreased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by around 17% per day compared to 2019 levels, around 7% for the entire year, with emissions bound to increase this year. Regulating market forces toward fully decarbonizing economies implies more economic activity, more jobs, not fewer.

That does not mean that all jobs will stay the same. They won't, and they shouldn't. Biden's infrastructure plan, for example, is projected to cost around 130,000 jobs in the oil, coal, and gas industry. Providing these workers with a viable alternative must be part of the clean energy transition, and it is. Biden's plan includes \$16 billion to help retrain and employ fossil fuel workers to plug orphan oil and gas wells and clean

up abandoned coal mines. That comes on top of \$10 billion to create a Civilian Climate Corps aimed at training the next generation, and many more programs with specific climate-related goals—both to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to fortify U.S. infrastructure to make it more resilient to climate changes already in store.

Then there are more far-reaching changes that a cleaner future will bring. An electric vehicle takes about one third fewer workers to build than a gas guzzler. That one-to-one comparison, however, misses dynamic effects, and international competition. Much of the jobs impact does not come from one-to-one comparisons but from who produces the vehicles in the first place. China, for example, now dominates the global market for lithium-ion batteries. That domination stems from access to raw materials but also from its large domestic battery market. Creating such a market in the U.S. would also help build a domestic

supply chain.

Many other parts of the infrastructure plan are even more directly linked to jobs, especially in building and construction sectors, which can hardly be outsourced across international borders.

It is also why this infrastructure package is perhaps the most durable of climate policies. The Reagan White House famously removed largely symbolic solar panels installed during the Carter administration, but most actual infrastructure investments are here to stay. Short of large bipartisan majorities for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions cuts, this feature is important. Future administrations are not going to strip homes off their better insulation, or rip out bridges or train lines. It helps that weatherizing homes and building infrastructure goes hand-in-hand with more jobs.

Gernot Wagner writes the *Risky Climate* column for *Bloomberg Green*. He teaches at New York University and is a co-author of "Climate Shock."