

# Lawmakers shouldn't rush complex bills

Oregon legislators will hit the 2020 legislative session on Feb. 3, and while there are already a number of high-profile bills on the horizon, elected leaders should remember that complex legislation can't be ironed out in a mere 35 days.

One key bill apparently on the legislative agenda is a new proposal to slash greenhouse gas emissions. A similar bill consumed much of the 2019 session and was eventually allowed to die.

The greenhouse gas emission proposal is a good case in point regarding why such bills need to be reviewed during the longer session — set for next year. That's because it is complex and has the capacity to impact all of Oregon.

It isn't a new occurrence. In the past, complex bills with the potential to make a huge impact on the state have been rolled out during the so-called "short session." When that happens, the voters get shortchanged. That's because complicated legislation needs months of review and study. Especially when the legislation is new, as is the case with the current emission proposal.

There is all too often a

rush by whatever particular interest group is behind a specific initiative to get it OK'd by the Legislature, and then rammed into law.

Voters deserve better. They deserve lawmakers that are going to take their time to get it right — not rush to make a judgment on a particular proposal that impacts all of Oregon.

Major policy topics need a thorough vetting, not a quick turnaround.

Lawmakers should also remember that the work they do is important, so important that voters count on them to make the right decisions. A "right decision" can't always be made in a mere 35 days.

Every legislative session is important, but the 35-day session that will kick off next month was never designed to be one where wide-sweeping pieces of legislation are quickly formed, and then made into law.

Lawmakers should go to the 35-day session, get the work that needs to be done finished, and then quickly get out of Salem. Major issues — such as the carbon emission topic — should be shuffled off until the next, longer session where careful methodical thought and debate will make it a better piece of legislation for all Oregonians.



## FARMER'S FATE

# We have to stop meating like this

Saturday night is synonymous with game night at my house — unless the hay is ready to bale, or needs loading, or the animals find a hole in the fence. But if the stars have aligned and we find ourselves without work to do on a Saturday night, you can be sure we'll be playing games that extend all the way from strategy to stupidly funny.

Last Saturday we chose stupidly funny. It was one of my favorite group games — a cross between Pictionary and the old children's "gossip" game. Where one person whispers a word to the next person, who in turn whispers what they thought they heard to the following person and so on and so forth. This game takes that idea and puts it into sketches as it goes around the circle. It's always a riot — and this night was no different.

The word was cannibal. I wrote it down on the first page, and passed it on to the next person who had 30 seconds to draw it. It wasn't until it had been passed all around the circle that I realized just how much our alternative-meat society was affecting our psyches.

The first picture showed a giant, gourd-like pot with flames around it and a couple of scribbles inside (afterward we were told those scribbles were actually people — but it was leaning heavy on the interpretive art side of things). The guess on the following page said "roisserie." For which the next person drew a cauldron under a spit roasting something seriously scrawny — only a few thin lines poking out the side of the skewer. It was scrawny enough to make a starving gopher look hearty. The next guess was "vegetarian barbecue." To which laugh-



Brianna Walker

**"I WAS A VEGETARIAN UNTIL I STARTED LEANING TOWARD THE SUNLIGHT."**

—Rita Rudner

ter erupted and conversation took a quick turn carnivorous.

I am vegetarian — but don't hold that against me. I saw a bumper sticker once that read "I am not a vegetarian because I love animals—I simply hate plants." Actually, I have been a vegetarian most of my life, one of the few in my family — although I do have a sister who calls herself "flexitarian" because she can "go either way." Having been vegetarian long before it was "cool," I always thought it harmless enough — but in today's world of fat and social media, it seems almost to become a source of righteousness. Never before have I felt a sense of embarrassment about belonging to the few that abstain from meat. Now, however, if diet comes up in a group of vegans, I tend to walk on eggshells — which I've found really upsets them. They don't seem to enjoy cracking yolks.

Vegetarian or otherwise, my family loves sarcasm and puns, and this cannibal-turned-vegetarian barbecue was a great source of delight as we all took turns cooking up our own dry food jokes — we may have over-seasoned slightly.

"What happens when a cannibal gets religion? He only eats Catholics on Sunday."

"What happens when a cannibal eats a Pentecostal? He can't keep them down — hallelujah!"

A missionary was walking in Africa when he heard the ominous sound of a blade sharpening behind him. "Oh Lord," prayed the missionary, "Grant in thy goodness that the man walking behind me is a good Christian man." And then, in the silence that followed, the missionary heard the man praying too: "Oh Lord," he prayed, "we thank thee for the food which we are about to receive."

In the midst of all the heated discussions on milkless milk, plant-based alternatives and meatless meats, sometimes we just need to step back and ask the important questions, like: How many vegans does it take to change a light bulb? Two, one to change it and one to check for animal ingredients.

A husband and wife were sitting around talking about their hard day at work, and the wife was complaining that she needed to be more assertive to get anywhere, when her husband told her, "You know what the problem is, don't you? It's a dog-eat-dog world out there, and you're a vegan!"

But through all the crazy, I did find one redeeming quality of being vegan — you'll never have to worry about cheesy jokes during game night.

Brianna Walker occasionally writes *Farmer's Fate* for the Blue Mountain Eagle.



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## GUEST COMMENT

# How do millennials spend money?

Soon to be the largest generation in our country's history, millennials are roughly considered to be ages 22-38, and it's estimated they will have well over \$1 trillion in buying power this year. Traditional advertising practices do not reach these customers, and it's important for businesses to understand what motivates them to buy.

Millennials are perhaps the most socially and environmentally conscious generation and want to do business with those companies they believe share their values. Millennials also expect businesses to give a significant portion of their sales back to these causes.

This age group purchases brand name items, subscription services (including for clothing) and the latest in technology. According to a recent article in Forbes Magazine written by Gui Costen, more than half do not have credit cards, and most have less than \$1,000 in savings, if any at all.



Greg Smith

Millennials are driven by discounts, do research and shop for nearly everything online using their mobile devices and tablets. Having grown up in the digital world, they expect instant responses and desire customer-centered buying experiences. They communicate by text.

As important to understanding where millennials spend their money, it's vital to know where they don't: cable television, home remodeling materials, travel.

What do they buy? The latest smart phones, conveniences, food that often makes a political statement and reflects their lifestyle in unique dining establishments, brand name clothing and other retail items, subscription services and older millennials are buying homes.

How do business owners successfully market to millennials?

Digital and social media platforms are the key. Research also suggests they read blogs before making a purchase and enjoy being engaged by companies on social media.

A significant percentage (especially younger millennials) reportedly have fled Facebook (although Nielsen reports it is still the largest platform accessed by their mobile devices), utilizing Snapchat, Instagram and YouTube instead.

Bottom line? Traditional advertising does not reach nor appeal to millennials. They're changing the way the business world works and businesses wanting to reach this group of consumers (and their pocketbooks) must quickly and continually adapt.

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