

Letters

From Page 3

As for the question asked by the media "Are you going to stay?", Hell yes, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Although we are not done with this journey to recovery, my family and I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard and been so generous in helping us and everyone else. Thank you to everyone at the flood center, thank you to Tony Hyde, and Betsy Johnson, Brad Witt, and

a big thank you to Ron Wyden for getting us an extension for the FEMA trailers. I know that there are many more who deserve a lot of praise for everything they have done and are doing, but I also know that they are not doing it for the praise. In closing let me say that I am a Vernonian, I live here, I work here, I volunteer here, I raise my family here, and I love this community and everything it stands for.

**Ernie Smith
Vernonia**

Witt bills would harm our property rights

To the Editor:

Our state Representative, Brad Witt, has been busy telling us all the wonderful things he's doing for us in Salem through newspaper columns and newsletters. Unfortunately, he's neglected to mention two bills

he's sponsored that will have a profound negative effect on our property rights and lifestyles.

One is HB3058, sponsored by Witt and one other representative. This bill would allow corporations to get wetland fill permits on private property they don't own, and get permits for work on private property even when the landowner opposes the permit. The landowner doesn't even have to be notified that the permit has been

applied for.

Coupled with a corporation's legal right to use eminent domain to force the sale of private property, it means any of us could end up with, for instance, an LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) pipeline going through what was formerly our land. Witt is a big supporter of the proposed LNG terminal on the Columbia and the 600 miles of pipeline needed by it and other pro-

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