

## Where to Find Them

### U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (Dem)

1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 585  
Portland OR 97232  
Phone: 503-326-7525  
223 Dirksen Senate Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001  
Phone: 202-224-5244  
E-Mail: <http://wyden.senate.gov/contact>  
Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>

### U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (Dem.)

One World Trade Center  
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250  
Portland, OR 97204  
Phone: 503-326-3386  
107 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-3753  
E-Mail: <http://merkley.senate.gov/contact>  
WebSite: <http://merkley.senate.gov>

### U.S. Representative David Wu (Dem) OR District 1

620 SW Main, Suite 606  
Portland, OR 97205  
Phone: 503-326-2901  
2338 Rayburn House Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-0855  
Website: <http://house.gov/wu>

### Senator Betsy Johnson (Dem) Senate District 16

PO Box R,  
Scappoose, OR 97056  
Phone: 503-543-4046  
900 Court St. NE, S-314  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1716  
E-mail: [sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us](mailto:sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/johnson>

### Representative Brad Witt (Dem) House District. 31

21740 Lindberg Road,  
Clatskanie, OR 97016  
Phone: 503-728-4664  
900 Court St. NE, H-373  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1431  
E-mail: [rep.bradwitt@state.or.us](mailto:rep.bradwitt@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/witt>

### Representative Deborah Boone

#### (Dem) House District 32

PO Box 926  
Cannon Beach, OR 97110  
Phone: 503-717-9182  
900 Court St. NE, H-375  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1432  
E-mail: [rep.deborahboone@state.or.us](mailto:rep.deborahboone@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/boone>

## Letters

### County thanked for obtaining generator

To the Editor:

The City of Vernonia Public Works department would like to thank Lonnie Welter at the Columbia County Road Dept. for all of his efforts in securing the generator that is stationed at the City of Vernonia water treat-

ment plant. This is an asset that is very comforting to have on site for emergency power.

There have been times in the past years when we have had to rent backup power in emergencies. This kind of expense has never been budgeted for since the water plant was built in 1996. Lonnie has spent considerable time with this project and I am sure that the rest of Columbia County is very appreciative of his time.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Burch**

**Public Works Foreman  
City of Vernonia**

### Out of My Mind

From page 2

In spite of shouting that “socialism” is a deterrent to business, those same big corporations have no problem doing business in socialist, even communist, countries like China. That same socialism reduces their expenses because those governments provide health care for everyone—you know, that awful, terrible, no-good socialized health care, that costs half, or less, than good old American insurance industry health care.

Congress talks about the need to reduce deficits, and they could make a difference. But they won't stop the annual \$20-\$30 billion in oil company subsidies, or the \$20-\$30 billion in corn, rice, cotton and soy bean subsidies that go mostly to agri-business giants, plus additional subsidies for ethanol made from the same corn, or the hundreds of billions in military industrial contracts that the Pentagon doesn't want.

Congress won't increase taxes on the wealthy, either, although that would be fiscally sensible, because too many of them are hooked on what are euphemistically described as “campaign donations.”

Without doubt, we have some good, honest Congressmen, just far too few of them. Too many in Congress pretend to serve their constituents while actually working to cut benefits for those who are unemployed, disabled, elderly or poor, and by refusing to rein-in harmful practices with sensible regulations for big business (especially Wall Street). They pretend to serve their constituents while helping destroy what remains of our hard-working middle class.

And they're laughing all the way to the bank—off shore, of course.

### Question about dam deserves explanation

To the Editor:

I want to thank Eleanor Thompson for her letter about flooding priorities. I am pleased

that Ms. Thompson expressed her opinions publically. Opinions expressed publically represent a risk taken by their authors. The courage to take any position is the hallmark of good citizenship. I wish more of us were willing to “own” our beliefs publically. Every public opinion, even a complaint, has the potential to increase public understanding at the same time it can help lower the temperature of our public discourse.

Although I have had little authority over these matters, I have been privileged to watch the wheels of our governments' flood response grind away. I want Ms. Thompson, and others, to know that many of their leaders, including our past Mayor, adamantly sought a dam or river diversion project. It was my impression that Oregon and federal emergency

management officials did indeed hear those requests. Despite this, there were two firm points on which they pushed back, repeatedly.

First, dams and similar projects (“structural projects” in FEMA parlance) have become much discouraged within FEMA and Corp of Engineers circles since the recent, dramatic Midwest flooding and, of course, the levee failures during Katrina.

**Please see page 16**

## Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters with personal attacks on private citizens. Preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.

## Salem Scene

*By Representative Debbie Boone  
Oregon District 32*



The Oregon Legislative 75th Assembly is now in session. The ceremonial start was January 10th, but on February 1st, work for the first annual session of the Oregon Legislature began in earnest.

This year my Legislative Committees assignments will be the House Agriculture and Natural Resources which will meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I am Co-Vice Chair of the House Energy, Environment and Water which meets Tuesday and Thursday, and House Veterans Affairs, which meets on Tuesday. Although I have a busy schedule, the only way I can effectively represent our district is to hear from you. I always make time to meet with my constituents, please call the office as soon as you know you're coming to Salem so I can make arrangements to see you when you are at the Capitol.

This session some of the bills I've introduced include:

- HB 2738 Establishing a Gray Whale license plate, as requested by the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute.
- HB 2736 Authorizes State Board of Forestry to acquire, designate or exchange state forest lands to create natural resource conservation areas. This legislation was requested by Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi.
- HB 2742 Establishing an Animal Abuser Registry for people who are convicted of certain crimes against animals. This was requested by a number of constituents in District 32.
- HB 2735 Clarifies provision relating to the Department of Energy ensuring that Energy Re-

source Supplier fees be credited to the DOE and prevented from being swept into the General Fund. The measure has been requested by consumer owned utilities, including the Tillamook PUD.

If you're interested in reading the complete bills, or checking on other proposed legislation, go to [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us) then click on Bills/Laws at the top to start your search.

This week I met with Governor John Kitzhaber regarding the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER). PNWER is an international public-private partnership including Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Montana; the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, plus the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The group is dedicated to encouraging global economic competitiveness and preserving the natural environment. PNWER focuses on regional issues that include trade and economic development, energy, transportation, health care, environment disaster resilience, and innovation. At this week's session with the governor, the discussion topics focused on energy, transportation, and trade and economic development. The incoming president of the PNWER executive committee will be Representative Mike Schaufler of Happy Valley, and this year's annual summit will be held in Portland.

Some other great news for our district, is that the Oregon Board of Forestry has selected Doug Decker as the Oregon State Forester. Doug was instrumental in getting the Tillamook Forest Center established, and more recently worked on the creation of the new Gilcrest State Forest, south of Bend. The Board of Forestry selected this 23 year Department of Forestry veteran because of his communication skills and his ability to reach out to stakeholders and get them involved in forestry matters. Doug was installed as State Forester on Tuesday, and I'm looking forward to working with him on forestry issues.