

From: [Margery Winter](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: From a rural county: We need strong environment legislation
Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 1:36:54 PM

Although I hike, but because of air pollution in our beautiful Jackson County, I now have to have a machine that filters and forces more air pressure through my nose every night in order to prevent a stroke or heart attack. My husband has to have a room air filter and a dental device for the same. We need enforcement of the FORMER EPA & STATE air quality standards, including in valleys where prescribed burning is taking place.

We also need to ban clear-cutting in public and private forests. A recent study by the University of Oregon found that our Northwest forests are one of the best hopes left of land that will absorb the most carbon NOW, and carbon is what we need to absorb so as not to become the burning fireball that is now the most populous part of Australia.

Yes, we need housing and more education funding also. But we cannot continue to have local and education funding dependent on lumber receipts. Housing will have to be more dense, which means more shared walls. We will continue to use less wood since the quality of available wood keeps decreasing anyway, but there is more and more use of engineered wood, such as laminates and recycled plastics mixed with wood products, and this includes major floor and ceiling joists and decking. With denser housing we will be able to defend better against disastrous fires, and it will be easier to have more sustainable transportation resources. There will be less land covered by roof tops and streets, and thus more land able to absorb water.

But land covering by petrochemical “forever” poisons will have to be eliminated. These poisons are increasing drastically, since genetically modified crops are not killed by them. However, invasive weeds and pests rapidly become resistant to them. These pests have short life spans, but humans and other fauna and flora are harmed. Specifically, glyphosate “Roundup” causes cancers and possibly other health effects; Chlorpyrifos damages the brains of our future generations, and many pesticides and plastics are endocrine disruptors. Since our federal government is no longer screening for harmful chemicals, our state government must do this, and we can in a very cheap way: simply ban chemicals that are banned in other countries, including the European Union.

Also, sustainable and organic farming must be encouraged and possibly subsidized. Sustainable farming methods result in absorbing more carbon and growing healthy foods, which will almost immediately make Oregon a more marketable economy. Since organisms which keep soils fertile and water-absorbing will not be killed, water will be less scarce and the weather less scary. Family farms are already forming more, which increases rural employment.

In addition, solar and wind power should have subsidies continued. Those sources of power are already cheaper than coal. But gas and gas pipelines should not be built, including the Pembina pipeline that crosses much of our drinking water sources and other sensitive environmental resources, including private land. This pipeline does not employ many people after it is built, and all the gas is being shipped out of our country. Gas pipelines almost always leak eventually. Gas fracking increases earthquakes.

Sincerely,
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