

My, Dale Feik, GUESTCOMMENTARY was published in the Newstimes, August 14, 2013, <http://portlandtribune.com/fgnt/37-opinion/159388-good-reasons-to-be-concerned-for-future> and the Hillsboro Tribune August 16, <http://portlandtribune.com/ht/118-hillsboro-tribune-opinion/159361-good-reasons-to-be-concerned-for-future>

The headline was:

Good reasons to be concerned for future

I am a concerned father, grandfather and community member. Why am I concerned?

- **2 degrees** — Almost every government in the world has agreed that any warming above a 2°C (3.6°F) rise would be unsafe. We have already raised the temperature .8°C, and that has caused far more damage than most scientists expected. A third of summer sea ice in the Arctic is gone, the oceans are 30 percent more acidic, and since warm air holds more water vapor than cold, the climate dice are loaded for both devastating floods and drought.
- **565 gigatons** — Scientists estimate that humans can pour roughly 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and still have some reasonable hope of staying below two degrees. Computer models calculate that even if we stopped increasing CO₂ levels now, the temperature would still rise another 0.8 degrees above the 0.8 we've already warmed, which means that we're already 4/5 of the way to the 2 degree target.
- **2,795 gigatons** — The Carbon Tracker Initiative, a team of London financial analysts, estimates that proven coal, oil, and gas reserves of the fossil-fuel companies, and the countries (think Venezuela or Kuwait) that act like fossil-fuel companies, equals about 2,795 gigatons of CO₂, or five times the amount we can release to maintain 2 degrees of warming. 80% of these reserves need to stay underground.

There are different approaches to this problem. Bill McKibben, <http://350.org/>, says that, "If it is wrong to wreck the climate, then it is wrong to profit from that wreckage." He says this is a moral imperative to vote for divesting. He urges educational and religious institutions, city and state governments, and foundations that serve the public good to divest from fossil fuels.

McKibben wants institutions to immediately freeze any new investment in fossil fuel companies, and divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years.

200 publicly-traded companies hold the vast majority of the world's proven coal, oil and gas reserves. They are asking you to divest from those companies.

James Hansen, <http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/>

former NASA climatologist, and a founding member of 'Citizens Climate Lobby' (CCL) <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/> agrees with McKibben. Hansen and CCL, however, promote a market-based approach of a revenue-neutral carbon tax to combat global warming. The tax would be assessed according to a fuel's carbon dioxide equivalent, and the money collected would be redistributed on a per-capita basis. The idea is to use market mechanisms rather than regulatory measures to discourage fossil fuel use and reward efficiency without boosting government revenue.

I am certainly glad that Governor Kitzhaber has come out in support of a carbon tax; one that would, I hope, rebate the money directly to the people, not to the government.

Bill Gates, on the other hand, has other ideas. If you Google 'Bill Gates on the World's Energy Crisis' or click on these active links http://www.ted.com/talks/bill_gates.html or http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/06/mf_qagates/all/ you will hear him say that "There's certainly lots of room for increasing efficiency. But can we, by increasing efficiency, deal with our climate problem? The answer is basically no. The climate problem requires more than a 90 percent reduction in CO₂ emitted, and no amount of efficiency improvement is going to address that.... You're never going to get the amount of CO₂ emitted to go down unless you deal with the one magic metric, which is CO₂ per kilowatt-hour." He then goes on to say that "fourth generation nuclear power is safer than all other energy options, and rich countries aren't spending enough on R&D. What happened in Japan is terrible...the environmental and human damage is clearly very negative, but if you compare that to the number of people that coal or natural gas have killed per kilowatt-hour generated, it's way, way less. ...coal and natural gas have much lower capital costs, and they tend to kill only a few at a time, which is highly preferred by politicians."

Some of Gates statements in his article challenge some of my actions taken so far, but I am glad that he is investing in ways to generate energy and therefore reduce CO₂ by 90% - one of the biggest challenges of this century.

Thank you for reading about these three different approaches to climate change. Will you join with me in working on divesting from fossil fuel companies, and promoting a fossil fuel revenue-neutral carbon tax bill?

Keep the
Earth
Healthy!



Mark Miller, Editor of Forest Grove NewsTimes & Hillsboro Tribune, and

Dana Haynes, Editor of The Times (Tualatin, Sherwood, Tigard):

The following was published in the Forest Grove NewsTimes and I assume in the Hillsboro Tribune, Wed, February 13, 2019, and I think it will be published in The Times as Citizen's View Opinion.

The Editors titled my Citizen's View with the Heading:

Stand up for our future

Thank you, Pamplin Media Group Editorialists. Instead of printing letters to editors in reaction to former legislator Charles Starr's opinion that carbon emissions are good for the economy and the environment, you wrote your Opinion titled 'Winter doesn't mean the planet isn't warming'.

I have made public comment before the Washington County Commissioners, the Forest Grove City Councilors, and have had published Op Ed pieces about how 98% of nonbiased climatologists/scientists say we have about twelve years to turn the warming of the planet around or our planet and all humans and life on it will be living on a very inhospitable home – our mother earth.

I helped form the Forest Grove City Sustainability Commission and later became its chair, but I resigned because many of the activities – like the plastic ban, the reduction in backyard burning - all seemed to help, but in the long run won't slow down the accelerating rate of climate disaster. The City and Sustainability Commission hired a Pacific University student as an intern and she did a very thorough greenhouse gas study that was supposed to be reviewed on a regular basis. Sadly, it ended up being shelved.

So, what can you do? Please support my efforts to convince the Washington County Commissioners to support the Clean Energy Jobs Bill, and to encourage our State Representatives to eliminate the proposed exemption to Intel's emitting of fluorocarbons, a powerful greenhouse gas generated as a byproduct of their semiconductor manufacturing, for five years. For 35 years Intel emitted Fluorides from its facilities in reportable amounts, but never reported them to the Department of Environmental Quality. The DEQ finally realize it and fined Intel \$143,000 for doing so (part of the fine was for Intel's building the two massive Manufacturing facilities in Hillsboro without a valid construction permit). Intel is currently permitted to emit 819,000 tons of greenhouse gases per year which calculates to 1.5 tons per minute. The two natural-gas-fired electricity producing plants in Boardman emit about the same amount per year. The coal-fired plant produces about 2 million tons per year.

Please support the 21 Youth who are suing the Federal Government over climate change/disaster. Ten of those youth are from Oregon, six from Eugene, two from Beaverton and two from other parts of Oregon. They won three times in federal court (the federal government and the fossil fuel industry are the codefendants) and were scheduled to go to trial in federal court in Eugene Oct 29, 2018, but one week before the trial, President Trump convinced his legal team to file another appeal. Please Google [Meet the Youth Plaintiffs — Our Children's Trust](#) a youth-driven, global climate recovery campaign to secure the legal right to a stable climate and healthy atmosphere. And consider contributing to their legal/travel expenses.

For our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, please take action now – speak out, write letters, lobby your City councilor, County Commissioners, State and Federal legislators, and talk with your neighbors, relatives and friends. The stakes are too high to not do so now!!!

Dale Feik, Ed.D., parent, grandparent and concerned citizen

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