



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Now, not tomorrow

Thank you, David Piercy, for your reminder (Letters, Aug. 17) that a change in city government is needed NOW!

Our elected officials should be responsible for how our city develops and not their appointed city officials. Our city council members have almost no power. Piercy's call for a charter review committee could happen with homelessness, climate change, transit, costly education the problems to solve now, not tomorrow.

Ruth Duemler, Eugene

Shouldering the burden

There is at least one annual letter complaining about the insufferable noise caused by leaf blowers. I guess I'm this year's letter.

I would strongly encourage the city of Eugene to ban all leaf blowers. However, I realize this might incite those who don't care about noise pollution so long as there's not a blade of grass on their driveways. Instead, why not limit the decibels of leaf blowers as many other cities in the U.S. have?

With the advent of powerful battery-operated leaf blowers, there's simply no excuse for anyone to annoy neighbors and neighborhoods with noisy gas-blowers. Some cities have limited blowers to 65 decibels. All batteryoperated blowers meet that standard. So it's win-win: lessen pollution in two ways with a simple mandate. And for those who insist on polluting the air with gas-blowers, there are a few available that meet the 65db standard.

Bruce Nelson, Eugene

No new natural gas infrastructure

Jim Ball (Letters, Aug. 13) would have us expand our fossil fuel infrastructure and pump more harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere on the chance that a green energy company like Vestas may decide to open a plant in Eugene.

The rapid expansion of natural gas production, mostly through fracking, has been a disaster for our climate because of methane leakage. Methane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas that now accounts for 25% of all global warming, speeding our Earth toward climate catastrophe.

Ball is right in that all current forms of renewable energy require some fossil fuels. Of course Vestas could use oil or coal, which actually may produce less global warming than natural gas.

The larger point, however, is that our ongoing climate chaos will not be easily resolved and requires sacrifice beyond which we have endured for COVID-19. While the masks and social distancing are inconvenient, it is the virus itself that is killing people and ravaging our economy. In the same way, it is the physics of global warming, not regulations, that will kill people and push us to the brink of extinction. A ban on new natural gas infrastructure is a modest start.

Chuck Areford, Eugene

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