

When Home Depot, Albertsons, CVS, Hobby Lobby and others are open for virtually the same shopping activity, there is no reason the library cannot find a way to permit the same. Restrictions of masks, no sitting and reading, limited number of the people inside at one time are perfectly reasonable. It is particularly galling that we just passed a continuation of a tax to 'maintain the existing level of library services.'

The policy is starving the public of intellectual growth.

John F. Quilter, Eugene **An exercise in circular logic** Amanda Astor's recent column tries to make the case that we need to cut more trees to restore streams endangered by logging and build more logging roads so people can get into the forest and recreate in clear-cuts.

It's an exercise in circular logic, half-truths and lies by omission designed to bolster the status quo and protect the undertaxed profits of out-of-state interests.

We just witnessed the impact that fires fueled by climate change-related weather patterns have on our forests, particularly forests managed the way Big Timber would manage it. It doesn't serve anyone involved — forest workers, people who depend on forest products, forest recreators or those who value the forest for its intrinsic nature and carbon sequestration — to pretend that going along as we have been, on public and private lands, is a solution. It's not.

These are hard questions. A good start would be replacing industry PR with real science-based debate and solutions. And, while we're at it, changing the tax structure so the industry gets closer to paying its fair share would be helpful.

Dave Barta, Eugene **State actions are illegal and unethical** Actions recently taken by Oregon's governor violate the U. S. Constitution.

The First Amendment states, in part, 'Congress shall make no law ... prohibiting the free exercise [of religion] ... or abridging the freedom ... to assemble' Surely if laws are prohibited then mere proclamations are illegal and without effect.

The Fifth Amendment states, in part, '... Nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.' Ordering businesses to close seizes the going concern value of the business. This action is being characterized as for public benefit. Accordingly, the Constitution requires the state to compensate the owners by replacing their lost revenue.

The governor has encouraged people to spy on their neighbors and report them to the authorities. Gov. Kate Brown suggests doing so is socially virtuous. These are tactics employed by totalitarian regimes and have no place in a free society.

All this is occurring while laws against rioting, looting and assault are not enforced and the perpetrators continue unencumbered and tacitly encouraged by some elected officials. Government in Oregon is rapidly losing its legitimacy by these and other acts. Perhaps it's time to consider replacing it. The people of Oregon have both a right and a duty to do so.

James Fox, Creswell



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