



Letters to the editor

Care needed for inmates After health care and essential workers, I hope that we can put prison and jail inmates toward the top of the queue for COVID-19 immunization. These inmates are unable to socially distance and hence are at greater risk. Furthermore, as wards of the state, we have the responsibility to take care of them. And we would be affirming civilized values at a time when we need that.

Jon Heritage, Eugene **Why vaccinate deniers first?** How come senators and congresspersons get to skip to the head of the vaccination line? I know they are self-important, but in the real world where the rest of us live, are they more important than nurses, doctors, grocery store workers, postmen, garbage men, firemen, (some) policemen, teachers, migrant workers or bus drivers? I think not.

And why especially are GOP senators and congresspersons getting vaccinated when they have been telling us since February that the virus is a hoax?

Are those brave and selfless servants of the people afraid they'll get tweeted at or have they, five years too late, come to understand at some subconscious level that their Beloved Leader cares as much about them as they care about their own constituents? That is, being a completely indifferent as to whether they live or die.

Jamie Selko, Eugene **Athletes are essential workers** During this isolating time, I have been thinking about how much sports on TV has meant for my sanity! It's amazing how much the sports industry has done to keep us entertained. Each day I look to see what basketball, football, hockey, golf or soccer games might be available on air. With the vaccine becoming available, I would like to see these young athletes elevated to 'essential' status for receiving COVID-19 vaccines. They are taking risks at the expense of their health for the love of their sport and for the entertainment of the populous. I salute them and wish for their well-being until this time becomes a distant memory!

Judie Borg, Eugene **A glaring breach of trust** Amanda Astor calls SB-1602, via the Private Forest Accord (PFA), 'a landmark bill developed collaboratively between the timber industry and environmental groups,' but there are many of us who call this bill a betrayal of the people of Oregon and the forest itself.

Oregon's Wall Street-driven industrialized forest 'management' practices are outmoded and dangerous. The bill ignored the demands of many of us who are directly and indirectly affected. We refuse to sell-out the environment and our future. One glaring breach of trust: minor buffer provisions on waterways for aerial herbicide applications are ridiculously insufficient to protect drinking water, lakes, rivers, soil and air from toxic chemical trespass. Herbicides drift offsite and must be banned.

Astor maintains that the 'PFA includes an agreement to 'stand-down' on pursuing forestry-related legislation' and that 'legislators must avoid disrupting this process.'

It's offensive that a paid staffer for a timber lobbying organization is telling legislators to stay out of the way. Legislators serve at the pleasure of voters, and are 'supposed to' work for all Oregonians. In reality, it is only when citizens empower ourselves to become decision-makers that laws and practices protecting our health and welfare will reflect the will of the people.

Michelle Holman, Deadwood **And infections for all ...** If you've wondered why our country seems to lead the world in deaths per capita, Paul Alexander's, the former