



Dangerous Ideas of the 2016 February Session

Property tax bill

SJR 201 aims to weaken Oregon's property tax protections from Measure 50 (cap on rise in tax assessment rate) which have been passed by voters 20 years ago. These property tax limits are constitutional so the politicians must refer their plan to the voters for approval. In the past, politicians have written their own biased ballot titles to fool voters. The big government lobby will likely spend millions passing it because they know they can reap hundreds of millions in new tax revenue if they can win. We believe any reform to Measure 50 must include eliminating Urban Renewal which allows millions of property taxes to be diverted from police, fire and schools to a political slush fund for building projects.

Gun owner blacklisting bill

SB 1551 allows your teacher, doctor, boss or family member, if they consider you unfit, to block you from purchasing a firearm by anonymously listing you on a statewide database. Oregonians blacklisted would not know they have been labeled unless they try to purchase a gun. Many Oregon Second Amendment advocates are calling this bill the most far-reaching and dangerous gun control bill they have ever seen.

Cap & Trade Bill: \$1 gas tax?

HB4036, SB1574 & SB1547 are various Cap-and-Trade mandates and anti-coal bans. These are often considered a hidden sales tax on energy. California already has similar laws and it cost businesses \$1 billion in carbon penalties. Both laws contributed to California's gas being \$1.14 higher than national rates and electricity rates rising four times higher.

Double hotel tax bill tied to scandal

HB 4146 nearly doubles the hotel tax in Oregon with funds being dedicated to a program at the center of an evolving Gov. Kitzhaber scandal. The hotel tax would fund the 2019 World Track Championships in Eugene which has been at the center of a possible quid-pro-quo scandal. In 2014, Supporters of the project flooded Gov. Kitzhaber's campaign with \$400,000 in donations in just over a month at the same time when the same donors were asking for a \$40 million taxpayer subsidy of the project.

The Register-Guard, Jan. 6, 2016

Anonymous bills

Many of the February Special Session bills contain no known author as lawmakers are allowed to hide their identity when they create bills. This allows lawmakers to hide from the public and avoid taking questions from the media.

Our brave Gov. Brown has declined all media requests to comment on the union-backed billion dollar tax increase measures that may be on the ballot. What leadership.



Oregonians make low wages

Thirty-one states have higher wages per capita than Oregon. Oregon's median income is \$41,681 compared to \$46,129 nationally. Although there are many reasons, one that must be stated is that Oregon is a high regulation state (land-use laws, environmental laws). Also, it has numerous business handicapping rules that do not exist in most other states. The end result is that Oregonians get "bigger" government and "less" actual spending money.

Portland outperforms on traffic

Portland ranks 12th in traffic, yet it is only the nation's 23rd largest city! Portland has spent billions investing in numerous light rail lines which have failed to reduce traffic. Taxpayers are left with a heavy price tag since light rail riders cost taxpayers more to subsidize than bus riders. *2014 Texas A&M University*

75% of HS grads unfit for college

Roughly 75% of Oregon high school graduates have to take make-up classes (remedial non-credit college classes) when they arrive at college. To catch up to their college peers, many have to take three terms of math before beginning basic entry level college course work. Even though Oregon high schools have seen double digit spending increases it has not resulted in improved performance. *Institute of Education Services 2015*



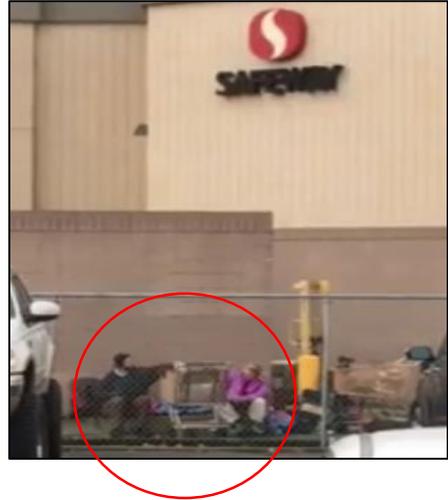
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Food stamp abusers caught on tape! ...but wait its legal?



An Oregon food stamp couple was filmed dumping boxes of newly purchased bottled water behind a Safeway parking lot as part of a twisted scheme to get cash.

The couple were more than forthright when questioned, saying they buy boxes of bottled water with taxpayer funded food stamps and then dump the water. They return the empty containers for deposit cash which they can use to purchase alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets. This is a pitiful waste of human potential, water resources and tax dollars.

Special thanks to the Lars Larson show for showcasing the video and the story.

29 arrested in food stamp fraud bust

Beaverton Police have arrested 29 people on food stamp fraud. A local food market was offering cash for food stamp credits at a rate of 50 cents for every food stamp dollar.

Oregonian June 12, 2015