



Oregon's Coastal Waters

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To: joelle.gore@noaa.gov

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Joelle,

I happened upon an article on the NOAA website when I was checking the weather for today. I am not fully educated in the matter, but am a native Oregonian. Growing up in this state my father taught me about respecting the land and the biodiversity.

Logging has long been an industry that sustained this state, however, while timber is still a major part of our economics, other venues are replacing it, such as the tech corridor in Portland, and other industry. Also, there is newer technology for building.

As regards the timber industry, it was little known fact to many tree huggers that while they could see stretches of forest from the roadways, clear cutting was going on out of sight. I am highly against this process due to runoff issues and difficulties in reforestation. The climate here is colder and our doug fir does not renew itself as quickly as forests in Georgia for example. I believe in a life long mandatory ban on clear cutting, unless there is detrimental environmental circumstance. I do believe that logging can be done sustainably.

You mention septic systems. Unfortunately, the cost to improve or add systems to a building site are a hard hit to the average pocketbook. However, I believe it should be mandatory for all existing homeowners and businesses with septic systems to have periodic checks, and mandatory repairs if said systems are leeching into our waters. There are sustainable and environmentally safe ways to improve upon this. If a resident cannot carry the financial burden, perhaps a small long term payment program with funds from other non-useful government programs. We could pull money from programs such as the BLM horse management program, to name one. And why would we spend money on someone who wants to have sex but is not responsible and feels you and I should pay for their birth control. I would rather contribute money to a well-managed environmental program that will protect our future generations. I am dead set against increasing the load via septic by larger facilities, such as newly proposed resorts, hotels and large development neighborhoods. Another idea, which not many people know of is the special toilets used in places such as Norway. The incinerator toilets. An option I considered for a cabin at one point. But the underlying problem has always been human encroachment. Can we control human population growth which is at the root of these problems? Most would argue sure, with the free birth control. HAH! But then if we push sustainability, we should also push abstinence shouldn't we? And don't forget the prescription drugs being found in the water systems. Did you know that the majority of our population is on drugs and they don't even know it?!

The oceans. After living in the Florida Keys for a number of years, my disgust was confirmed against big development. What a mess they have brought to the reefs and waters for which so many wanted to come and live and enjoy. Over-populated keys and the great number of tourists with not one ounce of ecological respect are destroying this area of the country. Snowbirds tossing their burger king bags out the window of their car! Smokers tossing their butts on the ground only to find their way into the sewer runoff and coastal waters. After spending a short period of time working for a waste management firm in this area, I realized that we all are up against an exponential polluting crime wave of ignorant and abusive humans. We are Jekylls and Hydes and are fighting ourselves! Can any of us truly stop this?

And the old adage of "what goes around, comes around" is quite true of our oceans (look at India's ocean). Can any of us stand at the line of demarcation off the Oregon coast (or any coast) for that matter and declare that the radioactivity from the Fukushima disaster "stop here" and not be allowed to merge into our waters? No such luck. And to that end, the devastation from that disaster is not yet over. So we sigh and do what we can to

preserve what we can. Thus, I propose not adding fuel to the fire so to speak. The fish will not be edible soon due to radioactivity. Perhaps you won't even be able to wade in the water on the beach without serious health concerns.

As a child, a trip to the coast meant seeing a kazillion starfish on the rocks. Today it is rare to see any. I am sad to say I am seeing this in my lifetime but so happy to know that my mother and father are not witnessing any of this. I am said for my grandson. I am not a proponent of federal regulations, because we soon become a socialist country with a bunch of lazy humans. The lazy part would be worse for the environment you know.

Ah well, I have become somewhat tangent in my thoughts and will leave you with this as food for thought.

Best regards,

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