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E-Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

On Monday the Senate voted to pass a [memorial](#) that expressed Oregonians' desire that our troops be withdrawn from Iraq. In my senate floor speech I stated:

"Colleagues, I want to take us back to the experience of my parents who were a part of what many call the greatest generation. In the years after World War I when everyone was sick of war, the order of the day was to negotiate, to concede, and to appease. So called responsible nations stood mutely by while Hitler, Mussolini and the Imperial Japanese elevated aggressive behavior to intimidation, invasion, and destruction. When no one pushed back, their aggression became anti-Semitism, ethnic cleansing, the holocaust and the rape of Nanking. The result of failing to intervene was Normandy, Omaha Beach, Guadalcanal, Corregidor, Midway, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Bastogne.

In the 1944 Belgium Battle of the Bulge, 80% of the 101st Airborne Division forfeited their lives in a 48 hour stand to hold the crossroad and bridge at Bastogne. Historians tell us that had the German Panzers broken through at Bastogne the outcome of the war may have been much different. In this chamber we might be wearing Swastikas or saluting the flag of the rising sun.

But the 101st did hold for 48 hours while General George Patton did the impossible by disengaging from the enemy and moving his armored Calvary more than 100 miles through abject winter conditions in only 44 hours. When the German Tank divisions finally decided to divide their forces and bypass Bastogne they were shredded by Patton's Armor. A few weeks later the allies were in Berlin and the War in Europe was over.

Times were different then. The people of the United States were not telling our military that they had until Tuesday, August 30th to win the war or else. Thankfully they were not saying that all support for the war would be withdrawn on a date certain.

Today we face a different but equally dangerous global threat, a religious jihad whose sole purpose is to impose its beliefs, its culture, and its control over the entire globe, a jihad whose stated mission is to eliminate, to kill, all non-believers through any and all means possible, a jihad that targets women and children and celebrates their mass murder.

Today we face a jihad whose stated purpose is to take all rights from half our world's population. Under this fundamental religious rule women have no right to vote, no right

to education, no right to select a mate, no right to have an opinion, no right to speak unless spoken to, no right to live if their master so decides. They are chattel owned outright by the men of their society.

Our military is engaged with these fanatics on the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq. Make no mistake that insurgents are pouring into those countries to force the United States to back away, and if we do back away they will know that nothing can stop them from achieving their goal.

To argue that we should implement a better military plan is certainly worth exploring. But to argue that we should concede, appease, and abandon the effort while the fight is on a distant continent is insane. We can be certain that the fanatics we are now fighting will not quit. They will continue to spread their terror and Dark Age treatment of women around the globe.

In his 1875 poem "The Present Crisis" James Russell Lowell wrote these lines:

*They have rights who dare maintain them,
We are traitors to our sires
Smothering in their holy ashes
Freedoms new lit altar fires*

*We see dimly in the Present
What is small and what is great,
Slow of faith how weak an arm
May turn the iron helm of fate.*

*Backward look across the ages
And the beacon moments see,
That, like peaks of some sunk continent
Jut through oblivion's sea*

*Not an ear in court or market
For the low foreboding cry
Never shows the choice momentous
Till the judgment hath passed by*

"Colleagues, the Oregon Senate represents all the people of Oregon. This March about 300 Dorchester delegates from all parts of Oregon debated the issue of whether our troops should be withdrawn from the war in Iraq. They voted by an 8 to 1 majority against troop withdrawal. Eight to one against what was essentially this resolution.

This measure sends exactly the wrong message to our men and women in uniform. This measure sends exactly the wrong message to our veterans who have sacrificed lives and limbs and health in defense of this great nation. This measure sends exactly the wrong message to the families of our veterans who have shared in that sacrifice. And perhaps most important, this message sends exactly the wrong message to our enemy.

Please vote no."

Domestic Partnerships Signed Into Law

In a scheduled by-invitation-only ceremony this morning, Governor Ted Kulongoski

signed [HB 2007](#) into Oregon law.

As you may recall, HB 2007 establishes that domestic partnerships between same sex couples have the same responsibilities, the same privileges, the same immunities, the same rights and benefits of married couples and if applicable, the same as divorced couples. It changes at least 274 Oregon Statutes in virtually innumerable places to read "marriage or domestic partners". All Oregon administrative rules related to those statutes will also be similarly changed. The bill requires domestic partners to consent to, and Oregon circuit courts to hear, disputes relating to domestic partnerships, such as actions for dissolution, annulment or legal separation.

Measure 36, codified in Article 1, section 5a of the Oregon Constitution, states that it is "the policy of Oregon, and its political subdivisions, that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or legally recognized as a marriage".

Measure 36 was supported by more than 60% of Oregon voters and the initiative passed in 35 of 36 counties.

Simply put, HB 2007 amends Oregon marriage laws to include same sex marriages. I voted no on HB 2007 because, in my opinion, it both circumvents the expressed will of Oregonians and is in violation of Oregon's constitution.

Land Use Reform Law Gutted

On Friday the House of Representatives passed [HB 3540B](#) on a straight party line vote with all 31 Democrats voting yes. This followed its passage out of both policy committee and ways and means committee on party line votes as well.

The bill essentially guts existing Measure 37 claims, makes future claims too expensive to pursue, and then refers the measure to Oregon voters for their decision at the next regular election. The bill is 22 pages of convoluted legal language written almost entirely by Department of Justice and Department of Land Conservation and Development lawyers. HB 3540B reduces current residential claims to either three homes – including the home currently on the property – or up to ten homes on large parcels. For larger parcels the allowed division includes significant additional restrictions on development. It makes residential claims transferable for only a limited period of time.

In short, after four months of negotiations, the Democratic majority decided to ignore the will of the voters, ignore the private property rights re-established by Measure 37, and ignore each and every concept introduced by republicans to protect private property rights.

Our office has received a tsunami of letters, calls, and emails expressing opinion on this measure. Of more than 50 communications received today, only one supported the measure. Today's communications reflect the tone of several hundred that our office has received on this issue.

I will vote no on HB 3540 as well as on HB 3546 that extends the time for the state to resolve Measure 37 claims by 360 days. However, with an 18 to 11 Democratic majority in the Senate, it is a forgone conclusion that both bills will pass that chamber as well, more than likely on a straight party line vote once again.

If this happens, HB 3540B will appear on the November ballot at a cost to the taxpayers of nearly two million dollars. The cost of the opposing political campaigns will be enormous. All this will happen in an attempt to once again override the will of Oregon voters. It is my fervent hope that Oregonians will see through the rhetoric and vote

again, for the third time, to uphold our private property rights.

Water Measurement Bill Passes Out of Committee

[HB 2564A](#), a particularly detrimental piece of legislation for rural Oregon, passed out of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment. The amended version of this bill is a result of a work group that was formed to address concerns over the original bill, which would have required nearly every water user in Oregon to measure their water use. The amended version of HB 2564 will require the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify high priority watersheds and then develop and implement water-use reporting programs. Water users will still be required to install and implement costly water use measuring devices. While this bill is an improvement compared to the original version, it still proves to be a threat to irrigators. We continue to strongly oppose this bill proposed and supported by Water Watch of Oregon.

Food For Thought

Our office received some interesting figures that I thought I would share with you. The following figures illustrate how this legislative session compares with the 2005 legislative session as of May 1st:

Number of bills introduced

2007: 2,876

2005: 2,877

Number of measures voted out of committee

2007: 1,158

2005: 962

Number of measures passed out of both chambers

2007: 149

2005: 74

Budget bills passed out of both chambers

2007: **27**

2005: **0**

While we have made significant progress compared to last session, much work remains to be done. All of our major agencies have yet to have money allocated to them. Many other state legislatures are capable of completing their budgets in the first one hundred days of their legislative sessions. If the Oregon legislature were willing to prioritize the big item budgets like education and public safety first, we would be capable of doing that as well. Instead, we continue to use the budget process to leverage policy issues.

On a final note, SB 800 was successfully passed out of the Senate this week. You can view a copy of the press release explaining its passage in the attachment that has been

included in this newsletter.

Our pace has begun to accelerate as we move toward adjournment on June 29th, but in the meantime, please keep in touch so I can gain from your perspective and discuss the issues that are important to you and to rural Oregon.

Keep in touch,

Doug

Missed a newsletter?

Find a list of all Senator Whitsett's newsletters and releases on his [website](#).

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