



DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHRIS BOICE SUSAN MORGAN TIM FREEMAN

1036 SE Douglas Ave., Room 217 • Roseburg, Oregon 97470

February 2, 2016

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senator Chris Edwards
Senator Alan Olsen
Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senator Doug Whitsett

Dear Senator Dembrow
And Members of the Senate Committee on
Environment & Natural Resources,

For the record, my name is Susan Morgan and I am a Commissioner in Douglas County.

Thank you for allowing me time to speak about SB 1574.

The citizens of Douglas County place a high priority on our environment. Clean air, clean water and good habitat for wildlife are the basis of our economy and our beloved outdoor recreation lifestyle. As an example, take a look at the number of people, organizations and businesses involved in our fisheries enhancement derby and auction. For 24 years, this event has helped pay for many, many miles of improved habitat and water quality in Douglas County. We love our part of the state, we love our environment, and we want to watch out for our vulnerable citizens.

We are Oregonians looking to ensure a bright future for all, but I can't support this bill and I encourage you to oppose it as well. Let me tell you why.

Earlier this month, the United Way came out with a new report that takes a look at the number of citizens who meet the federal poverty level in our state. A most interesting aspect of the report talks about the working poor, what they call the "ALICE": Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

These are the hard working people in my county and yours that are doing all they can to make ends meet, and they are in survival mode.

Today, in Douglas County, 43% - that is almost half of the people that I represent - were identified as struggling to meet their basic needs.

And, in my county, these numbers aren't improving. In 2007, this report cites that 39% of families in Douglas County fit this definition, in 2010 (mid-recession) it ticked up to 40%, and the latest figures from 2013 show the number has increased to 43%.

SB 1574 adds up to a terrible deal for my county and the rural parts of our state that are already hurting the most.

These families can't afford up to a 30% increase in electric and utility bills.
We can't afford an extra \$55 a month on the price of gas.
And we can't afford to see any more of our good paying jobs leave our community.

Senators, I strongly urge you to seek environmental opportunities that also grow economic and social sustainability, and provide a measure of stability for all rural Oregon families.

Respectfully,



Susan Morgan
Douglas County Commissioner

To view the United Way report, please go to:

http://unitedwayalice.org/documents/15UW%20ALICE%20Report_PNW_Lowres_1.12.16.pdf



Craig Reed
creed@nrtoday.com

January 31, 2016

Fiddlers play 'old timey' music in Sutherlin



Bob Hanson of Roseburg performs during the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Joe Ross of Melrose, right, and Hal Thompson of Glide perform during the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Liz Crain of Roseburg performs during the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Karen Pohl of Myrtle Creek performs during the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Fred Young of Sutherlin plays the harmonica during the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Jim Kuether of Sutherlin warms up before performing at the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Larry Costa of Winchester Bay performs during the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Colleen Hanks of Roseburg performs during the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Louie Roy of Roseburg poses for a photograph at the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.



Guests applaud after a performance during the Oregon OldTime Fiddler's Association statewide fiddle jam in Sutherlin on Sat. Jan. 23.

SUTHERLIN — The fiddlers and their fiddles were the featured guests at the recent Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association State Jam.

But they had plenty of backup from musicians playing guitar, banjo, bass, mandolin, dulcimer and autoharp.

Forty-five musicians came together in the Sutherlin Community Center on Jan. 23 to strum their bows, pick their strings and tap their toes. Some of the folks would have even kicked up their heels and danced, but the full house turnout covered up the dance floor.

Jigs, reels, hoedowns, schottische, waltzes — a whole gamut of music was played and enjoyed.

“I just appreciate the old timey music,” said Sharon Thompson of Glide. She is the treasurer for the state fiddlers association.

“Old timey” fiddle music is described as mountain-type folk music from the early 1900s. It was most popular in rural areas. It is played on a variety of acoustic instruments and eventually became the main foundation for bluegrass music.

“Our goal is to perpetuate old time fiddling ... to keep it alive for the kids,” said Bob Hanson of Roseburg. He plays back-up guitar for the fiddle music.

“You don’t have to be old to be an old-time fiddler,” he said.

Most of those playing at the recent jam, however, were in their 60s or older. But many of them were acting young as they played lively music.

“It’s fun to be on stage with your friends playing behind you,” said Collen Hanks of Roseburg. She’s been a fiddle player for four years, learning to play the instrument later in her life.

The mission of the Old Time Fiddlers Association is to promote, preserve and perpetuate old time fiddling and old time music, and to encourage everyone, especially young people, to play the fiddle and to appreciate old time fiddling and old time music. The association also provides regular times and places to meet to play this type of music.

The association was founded in 1964. Its membership is 700 families. There are 10 district chapters in the Oregon. District 10 encompasses most of Douglas County and has a membership of almost 50 families. While many of the members are 60 and older, a few of the families do have children who play the fiddle.

"We're hoping it's not a dying tradition," Hanks said. "We're trying to encourage young people to join us."

At the Sutherlin jam, the musicians drew numbers and then took the stage when their turn came up. It was their choice as to whether they wanted to play solo or play with several backup musicians. They were limited to 5 minutes or one tune.

"We were very excited about the turnout," Thompson said. "People came from all over the state and a couple from out of state. People supported us by attending, coming to enjoy our music."

The District 10 fiddlers chapter meets from noon to 3 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Sutherlin Grange Hall at 851 S. Comstock St. to play. The musicians also visit six different assisted living homes in central Douglas County each month and play for those residents.

"It's really interesting and enjoyable to see some of those people clap their hands, move their fingers to the music," Thompson said. "Somehow the music makes a difference in their minds. You see a little life return to these people."

For those interested in learning how to play the fiddle or to improve their skills on the instrument, the West Cascades Fiddle Camp and Workshops is held annually in Oakridge. The four-day camp is for musicians age 7 and older. This year's camp is scheduled for July 18-21. Scholarships are available.

The state association holds quarterly meetings and jams each year with the sites in addition to Sutherlin being Rickreall, Burns and Klamath Falls.

"Anybody at any level of expertise is invited to join us," said Jim Kuether of Sutherlin. He is the vice-president of the state fiddlers association.

"It's a very relaxing, nice type of music," he said.

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