

HOOD RIVER NEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Think progress

Those who choose to support business profits, without considering deeper implications, like to disparage the various progressive organizations, like the HRVRC, by saying they are against "everything." The reality is, when one is against something, one is automatically FOR something else. Progressives (read: those for progress), in my experience, are for things like a healthy, functioning environment, (Remember, it's where we live.) healthy communities, democracy, living wages, comprehensive planning and progressive development.

Another common complaint leveled at real progress is that Oregon, and Hood River County in particular, have too much of a restrictive attitude towards business. The keepers-of-the-corporate-status-quo scourge progressives as NIMBY's (not in my backyard). A term made up by the "keepers." Well, you know what? There are things that shouldn't be in anyone's backyard – anywhere! If the full cost of business-as-usual were truly factored in, we would have a civilization nothing like the one we have. We could not, would not do business the way we do it! The progressive spirit, for which Oregon is so well known, should be the beginning point, not the end point, on the longer road to intelligent progress.

Why is it some believe business should always come first? Consider the hourly business and market report. How about an hourly report on the welfare of our elderly, our children, families, people, communities, the condition of education in America, an air, water, total environmental health index? What are our real national values? There's a chasm between the rhetoric and the reality!

Instead of everything being subservient to business ideas, no matter how one-sided or bad for our communities and the world, how about business fulfilling our highest, most noble aspirations? Fortunately, there are great minds, hearts and business people the world over who are pioneering a saner world. Let's not blindly accept whatever junk jobs come down the road. Let's work for and encourage sanity in this very beautiful place we call home.

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