

Governor: Optimistic about role of government

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last inaugural in 2011. Oregon has erased a \$3.5 billion budget gap and replaced the jobs lost during the Great Recession.

But too many people are still working hard for wages that can't support a family, Kitzhaber said. On net, he said, the newly created jobs are not as good as the ones that were lost.

Still, he spoke optimistically about the ability of government to solve problems, citing the accomplishments of his father's generation following World War II. It brought electricity to rural communities, sent returning soldiers to school and built the Interstate Highway System, he said.

"I'm here today because I still believe in our government, and that it can be a force for good in our lives," Kitzhaber said.

A former emergency-room doctor, Kitzhaber has spent most of his adult life in elected office. He said the next four years "will complete the arc of my political career."

Kitzhaber is already Oregon's longest-serving governor. He served eight years beginning in 1995, and returned in 2011 after two terms out of public office.

His fourth term starts with continuing controversies that consumed the final year of his previous stint — the collapse of Cover Oregon, the state's health insurance exchange, and ethical questions about his fiancée's business.

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission is investigating whether Hayes illegally used taxpayer resources to advance her consulting business. Hayes has done paid consulting work for organizations with an interest in influencing state policy.

During the gubernatorial campaign, Hayes also tearfully admitted that she had accepted around \$5,000 to marry an immigrant who was seeking a green card in 1997. She said she hid the marriage from Kitzhaber until it was unearthed by Willamette Week newspaper.

In a nod to the controversy, which forced the intensely private governor to openly discuss his relationship, Kitzhaber opened his speech with a joke at the expense of the press: "I thought I would start by sharing a little personal information — although, thanks to our friends up there, I don't think there's much left out there."

Kitzhaber will work with the biggest Democratic legislative majorities he's encountered in his 12 years as governor. Bucking a national trend that swept Republicans into office around the country last year, Oregon voters expanded the Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate.

Kitzhaber and state lawmakers were honored after the ceremony with a low-key reception in the Capitol lobby.

Sen. Peter Courtney, D-Salem, was elected to a record seventh term as Senate president. Rep. Tina Kotek, a Portland Democrat who was the first openly gay woman to lead a state legislative chamber in the United States, was chosen for a second term as House speaker.



DON RYAN/The Associated Press

Gov. John Kitzhaber is sworn in Monday by Senior Judge Paul De Muniz in Salem. Kitzhaber's fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, is at right.

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A Family of Ministries

An Open Response to the Open Letter printed in the Register Guard on 01/06/2015 from Crossfire World Outreach Ministries to the 215 Signers(not all of whom are neighbors) that live among the thousands of South Eugene and Lane County residents.

This letter is written from a heavy heart. As people who love the environment, love our community, love our neighbors, and love Jesus, we respond to this letter publicly because this is the avenue that has been chosen by the letter published in the Register Guard on 1/6/15, page A7.

This letter does not represent Christians or Churches as a whole in our community. We don't speak for anyone other than ourselves. In fact, we find it hard to speak for the entirety of our own church because it is a group unified by our love for Christ, yet holding very differing political, social, religious, and even moral views. Therefore, we speak as the leadership of Crossfire recognizing this to be a controversial issue.

We have appreciated those in this debate that have been kind and cordial. We had a community meeting last year at our South Eugene Campus that was needed and helpful in making our difficult decision. Not everyone has been so kind and cordial. Since this debate began, our pastors (and others) have been attacked publicly and privately by people listed as part of the 215 concerned signers. Terrorism has been defined as: "those who threaten and incite fear and violence on a group of people to demand their conversion to an ideology." A few of the 215 signers have threatened to teach us a lesson by coming to our personal homes and churches to inflict violence. They have threatened to publish the whereabouts of our families and personal information as a way to harass us, and have insinuated that they would hurt us physically. This activity should not be tolerated by our larger community. We are asking all of Lane County to help protect the future of our community by not allowing anyone to terrorize us because we disagree with their ideology.

IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER ITSELF: We were asked to take a new moral leadership to protect people and our environment for years to come. We spent countless hours researching this issue, as well as meeting with Dr. Dart (as requested by the 215 signers). Please understand that we have read research from many differing view points. There were surveys quoted in the letter that were not independent studies but surveys that targeted groups who were already in opposition. This causes the letter to be misleading to the readers and the public at large.

The FCC allows cell towers within cities at what they have determined to be safe setbacks and microwave levels. There are so many differing views that we believe it is imperative for us to abide by the FCC regulations and therefore have put in the language of our contract that if the FCC guidelines ever change concerning health issues, so would the use of our cell tower. We are not scientists and have no desire to get into a scientific debate over an issue that not all scientists agree on. The PROBABLE health issues fight is not with us, or even the City of Eugene; it can only be fought at the Federal level, and that is where you should take your fight.

The Hypocrisy of it all is amazing. Only two or three of the people in opposition that we have spoken with refrain from using a cell phone. The science we are talking about comes from the same camp that has said that microwave ovens are a hazard to your families, yet most of them have a microwave in their home. They were the ones saying that having a power line coming to your house would be detrimental to your health, yet do not live without it. They said fossil fuel emissions will cause physical harm, yet they drive past our homes, businesses, and churches in their cars doing that very thing out of necessity. Not to mention their concerns about cellular devices, laptops, bluetooth devices, and even WIFI. The list is almost unending in our technological society.

One thing to note. A reason for promoting this kind of theory (that cell phone towers cause cancer) could be to have their research projects funded. There is big money in playing on the fears of people.

Some have tried to make this all about money. We agree this is about money to support the amazing work we do and have done for many years. We believe that God created our planet and has given us stewardship over it. Many of our staff and volunteers have visited some of the poorest areas of the world where pollution and lack have devastated whole communities. We believe in taking care of our planet, but this must be considered in the light of humanity and progress. While we believe in the care of our planet, we also believe our hope is not found in the planet. Our primary goal is for the eternal salvation of every person through Jesus Christ. We also know that we are to display the love of Christ by reaching out to others. It takes money to do these things. It took money for the 215 signers to publish the original letter, and this response will take from our resources, \$1825.00, that could have been used in a more productive way.

How will the money from the cell tower be used, you ask? We, as a family of ministries, currently help in our community and around the world through our World Missions, we conduct Camps (giving huge scholarships to children and teens) allowing them to experience the environment and Jesus in a way they otherwise may never have the opportunity to. We have provided weekly free hot meals to the hurting and hungry for decades, as well as ministry to the whole family including children, youth, students, and families, both young and old. Our Crossfire Hands of Hope weekly gives out food boxes to families who need support. This is a way to help heal the epidemic in our community of the growing number of working poor. We weekly have our Crossfire Celebrate Recovery to help those with substance abuse and life controlling habits. Our Master's Commission School of Ministry helps equip college age students to have a good foundation in life. This is not to mention the many faith-based services, TV Ministries, and small groups that have given people hope in Jesus. This being said, we know what it is to have to limit and even shut down effective ministries simply because we cannot fund them. Our men's and women's homes, our On Your Feet Ministry, many of our international feeding sites, as well as international church building programs, after-school support, release time programs, and most of all our Bus Ministry. All of these and many more have had to be cut due to a lack of funding, some over the last few years (especially since our Eugene City Council drastically reduced the use of fireworks in our community which is one of our main fundraising events).

We do care about this life, but we are even more concerned with the life to come through Jesus and his work on the cross of Calvary. We do want to be a good neighbor, but that does not mean doing what your neighbor wants all the time. That also does not mean that we will always agree. Jesus was crucified because He was pushing an agenda that others didn't agree with, yet to Him it was worth giving His life. That agenda wasn't the planet, but the people on the planet (John 3:16).

OUR COMPROMISE: We need the money being offered for this cell tower to take what we are doing at Crossfire's Springfield Campus and begin doing it in South Eugene, where there are similar needs. Currently many have to travel from South Eugene to Springfield to receive the much needed services that we offer that at this point we cannot afford to offer at both campuses.

If we agreed with the few, that this was an actual public health issue, we would not rent our property for the cell tower use. After reviewing both sides of the debate we do not agree that this is an actual significant health risk. Even if we believed there was some small/possible support for the issue, we ask why should we be the only ones to make the sacrifice?

Option 1. For this reason we are proposing that if those in our community are truly concerned, why don't they consider buying our building and property for a fair market value (estimated property value is under 2 million). We would then relocate where this would no longer be an issue.

Option 2. We would be willing to take under half of the proposed value of the 25 year contract. The value of the contract with monthly rent, yearly increases, additions to our current building and our co-locate agreement would be greater than 1.5 million dollars. We would be happy to make an irrevocable contract for the life of the property. This would be a contingency for any possible future sell of the building guaranteeing there to never be a cell tower on our property. We would be happy to do that for 750K. This is under half of the contract amount, and we believe it would be a fair amount. We would pay off our building, put a much needed new roof on the South Eugene building, install a community playground that is much safer and attractive to kids, as well as pay off our camp facility.

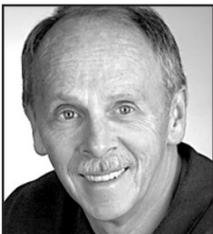
Options 1 & 2 would have to be decided upon within the next 30 days due to the timeline we have with the cell phone company.

Option 3. We would continue with the plans to sign the contract we currently have with the cell phone carrier. Understand that we have already spent in time, lawyer fees, and other expenses about \$20,000.

We will be making our final decision on or soon after Feb 12, 2015. Please direct all further correspondence to ministrydirectors@my-crossfire.com. All correspondence will be read and forwarded to the decision makers for this issue. All correspondence deemed as threats will simply be forwarded to the authorities. Thank you, Crossfire World Outreach Ministries, A Family of Ministries.

From all of us at Crossfire Family Worship Center, we would like to congratulate the University of Oregon Duck Football program on an incredibly successful year. Go Ducks!

Ken Schmidt



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