

[Email received 6/22/20 from lrm416@hotmail.com]

Oppose and *Vote NO* on Gorge Commission Policy Plan (Gorge 2020)

Certain Gorge residents recently received an alarming notice in the form of a mundane, postcard which declared curtly:

"The Columbia River Gorge Commission has **proposed amendments** to the National Scenic Area Management Plan which may ***impact the value and use of your property*** and future development in your community," which include "***changes*** to land use regulations ***for private properties*** . . . that may ***restrict future uses.***"

Apparently a simple vote can wipe out all of a landowner's rights as well as up to 100% of his property value.

But that's not the way it's supposed to be according to Ernest Istook:

"Our economic **freedom is founded on individual property rights**; **government should never be permitted to take those away.**"

If you're so inclined, do not try to manipulate individual property owners out of their rights. Vote NO!

And Mike Klepper said,

"The only legitimate **purpose of government is to protect the lives and property of its citizens.**"

Over a century ago President and chief justice William Howard Taft showed incredible 21st century insight when he wisely observed,

"No tendency is quite so strong in human nature as the desire to lay down **rules of conduct for other people.**"

"We can't have a decent government unless those in power exercise **self restraint.**"

Please use a little self restraint. Vote NO!

He also said,

"The world is not going to be saved by legislation."

"Next to the right of liberty, ***the right of property is the most important individual right guaranteed by the Constitution.***"

Other presidents have been equally explicit:

"Property is surely a right of mankind as real as liberty."

--John Adams

"Ultimately **property rights and personal rights are the same** thing."

--Calvin Coolidge

"The rights of persons, and the rights of property, are the objects, for the protection of which Government was instituted."

--James Madison

Long before 1776, John Locke's writings greatly influenced the Declaration of Independence, as well as our American revolutionaries when he stated,

"Government has no other end, but the **preservation of property.**"

***If you have the power to vote on the Gorge 2020 policy,
Vote NO. It's your duty!***

But in frustration, Locke also said,

"Too many people don't care what happens so long as it doesn't happen to them . . ."

We have no personal interests in the Columbia River Gorge, but we are very concerned for the future of our fellow Wasco county landowners as well as all private property holders in greater Oregon and Washington. You see, we believe, "An attack on one (*in this case by the gorge commission*) is an attack on all."

Please *just say no! Vote against any and all policy* that has the effect of:

limiting the opportunities and /or uses any landowner currently enjoys on one's private property, and/or;

reducing the value of even one private landowner's property through the power of your decisions.

Most sincerely,

Lanny Metteer
Antelope, Oregon

The mission of law is not to oppress persons and plunder [people] of their property, even though the law may be acting in a philanthropic spirit. Its mission is to **protect property.**

--Frederic Bastiat

