

# Marion County Democratic Central Committee

## Newsletter

## July 2009



### DEMOCRATIC VALUES

- Affordable Health Care
- Quality Education
- Fair & Equitable Taxation
- Healthy Air, Water, Land
- Family Wage Jobs
- Accountable & Fiscally Responsible Government

## Stand Firm, Fight

**On** by Roger Pike,

*Communications Committee Chair*

We've won! Right?

We have the Presidency, Congress, and we are poised to make gains in the courts. We have the governor and the legislature. And, we have the momentum. Above all, it seems our opponents are in chaos—without leadership, prospects, or a plan. It would be easy to think that now we can rest. Even the legislative session is winding down and it's easy to believe that the fight is over until elections are again upon us.

The moment we do that we begin to lose the edge. Those who would stop us will begin their surge back into power. The minority understands they can't let up. Neither can we.

If I were in marketing, and "Democratic values" were my product, I would insist that now is the time we must double our efforts to build our brand. We need to encourage our state and national leadership to make policy we can believe in; and, more important, we must work at the grass roots to create an environment where those policies take root and flourish.

We support our values by explaining them to friends and neighbors—especially those on the fence or who disagree with us. We talk around the water cooler about how our current health care system is an expensive mess that leaves tens of thousands without care. We suggest a better way that will help more people. We suggest that it would be good for business to stabilize, and even reduce health care costs

through a public option that permits bulk buying, negotiations with providers, and efficient delivery of services and medications.

We let people know that organization of workers has been the most powerful tool in history to make sure that working men and women get their share. And we tell our friends what life would be like without the benefits won at the bargaining table. We talk about the importance of education and we worry about what's happening to the environment. We insist the time has come for social justice and a country that recognizes the value of all its citizens, respects their rights, and honors their contributions.

We do this casually in our homes. We do it more formally in our involvement with political and social organizations. We do it directly with letters to the editor and guest editorials, posting blogs. We do it in every forum that might influence a voter.

The right wing is doing a better job of getting out their message than we are. We must organize to oppose them. We must tell the world what we believe and why we believe it. We must be convincing.

Elections are the time when opinions are expressed; but NOW is the time when opinions are made.

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***I'm asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington...***

***I'm asking you to believe in yours. -Barack Obama***

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## Cap and Trade: Solution to Green House Emissions?

by John Malusky, MCDCC Chair

Climate change is one of the biggest threats that must be faced, and soon. We are very near the point of no return. But, what's happening in Oregon and in the nation?

In the last eight years of federal inaction under the Bush administration, the states increasingly had to move on climate change.

In 2007, Oregon proposed diverse legislation toward reducing green house gas emissions 10% below 1990 levels by 2020; and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050). A bill, SB 80, was to include a market mechanism with a hard and declining cap on greenhouse gas pollution from utilities, industry, and transportation.

The Democratically controlled Oregon Legislature did not pass SB 80, which, in effect, ended any hope of initiating a cap and trade system that would control carbon emissions at the state level.

Cap and trade sounds good. But, what is it? Cap and trade on the Federal level, created in the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES), is a complex system that imposes a limit on greenhouse gases by distributing or selling permits to pollute – within an established limit. Companies could trade their permits through a system in which companies that reduce their emissions could sell their "extra pollution credits" to those companies that fail to reduce theirs. The system is complicated, but that's it in a nutshell. The Republicans don't like cap and

trade. With his flat-earth friends, Texas Congressman Joe Barton says, "I don't believe that mankind is the primary cause of climate change. I do accept that carbon dioxide levels are rising." Mr. Barton claims that if we enforce a cap and trade system in order to control carbon emissions we will de-industrialize the USA. He says, "I am not going to be a part of that".

Some environmental groups also have reservations about cap and trade. Greenpeace, the Rain Forest Action Network, and International Rivers raised serious concerns. Their ally, John Hansen, the NASA physicist, who has studied climate models for decades, warns that unless emissions of greenhouse gases are reduced, the planet will reach a dangerous tipping point by 2016.

On the other hand, Al Gore and many other environmental groups, including the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Wilderness Society, and the Environmental Defense Fund enthusiastically support ACES.

The ACES cap and trade will lower the greenhouse emissions to only 80% of current levels by the year 2020, and won't be fully implemented at the 17% level of current emissions until 2050. This is long after the "tipping point" of our NASA expert.

Who is correct? Joe Barton – no way! Al Gore? Maybe. I think we need to address this problem as JFK did with the space race. Set a date, 2016, and move on it with our Democratic Congress and White House with all the effort we can rally. There is no time to lose!

(Thanks to the Washington Spectator, June 15 edition, for information for this editorial, More background on SB 80 is at <http://www.oregon.sierraclub.org/tracker/SB80.htm>.)

## Out of the Mouths of Babes

*The following is a report written by Victoria Stalnaker, 14, for her History 4 class and is food for thought for all of us:*

***"We will not step down, we will not be silenced, and we will not compromise our rights"***

Everyone should have the right to love freely. The Constitution, our democratic ideals, equality, and personal liberty all support gay marriage. No one should be told who they can or can not love, or who they can or can not marry. "There are over 1.5 million gay partnerships in America today"

Banning gay marriage is strictly unconstitutional. The First Amendment clearly states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment or religion or probating the free exercise thereof". Most people against gay marriage use religious statements to support their view point. However, the Constitution says the government can not make a law because of religious reasons. Also, Amendment number fourteen says "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof; are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws". So therefore no state should be able to enforce a law which will deprive any person of there way of life. So clearly banning gay marriage is unconstitutional.

Others might have the opposite opinion or different views. Many in the traditional religious group believe that gay couples only want to get married for the same benefits as a man or a women. Various religious groups think gays are completely against god. "It is a sin for men to act effeminate and it is also a death worthy crime in the sight of god for humans to be gay or to commit the abominable act of homosexuality. But shouldn't everyone have the right to love? Love is a tender feeling of affection. Shouldn't everyone be able to feel that? Plus, the Constitution and democratic ideals support gay marriage. Is it really hurting anyone else's personal life? Why does it matter what someone else does in their own house or the way they live their life?

Gay marriage does connect with some of our democratic ideals. "Equality". What does equality mean "Equality is the state or quality of being equal" When homosexual people are not able to get married but heterosexuals are, that is saying that homosexuals are not being treated equal. Saying that homosexuals can not get married, is saying that they are different, and should not be able to have the same rights as a heterosexual couples. Gays are not feeling the "Equality" because they have people telling them who they have to love to be able to get married. That is not right! We are America, the land of the free, so why are gays not free to marry whoever they choose?

Everyone should be able to love freely. "I do not believe the government should have the power to tell any two adults that they can not function together alone or as a family and with all privileges that married couples are given by the federal government" When two people fall in love no one should be able to tell them what they can or can not do. Earlier this month a homosexual was on his death bed. When is male partner went to see him the nurse said "No". Even thought they had a domestic partnership. Now is that right? Not being able to see the love of your life before he or she dies. Everyone should be able to love and marry freely.

The right to love and marry should be open to anyone. The right to love and marry is a personal liberty. Personal liberty means "the liberty of an individual to do his or her will freely, except for those restraints imposed by law to safeguard the physical, moral, political, and economic welfare of others". Therefore, it is personal liberty for two people that love each other to get married.

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It is clear that many same sex couples are being discriminated against. However, the Constitution its self, democratic ideals, and personal liberty supports gay marriage. So why shouldn't everyone have the right to love freely without being bothered and reminded everyday of who they love?

*Editor's Note: It is encouraging to know our young people are giving this kind of thought to issues of our times.*

## Calendar for July 2009

### Membership Committee Meeting

07/02/2009 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

### Legislative Committee Meeting

07/06/2009 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

### Communications Committee

07/13/2009 - 6:30pm - 8:00pm

### DemoForum - Brian Clem - Wednesday July 15, Noon-1PM

07/15/2009 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm

### Salem Art Fair Volunteers Needed!!

07/17/2009 - 9:00am - 07/19/2009 - 9:00pm

### Marion Dems - Annual Picnic!

07/20/2009 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm

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