

# Letters

*(Continued from Page 4)*

wants the State and County to do is a good thing.

Mr. Otten's expressed criticism of Commissioner Samson is not warranted. Commissioner Samson wants to protect us, the Coos County taxpayers; and he also wants to protect the credibility and credit worthiness of the County. In short, he is doing the job he was elected to do.

I would also like to thank Jamie Sayen for his remarks requesting that the County do financial due diligence before responding to Mr. Otten's request. Mr. Otten claims that the County bonding he proposes is at "no risk" to the taxpayers. That seems to fly in the face of normal legal concepts about bonding. The "no risk" representation should be independently reviewed. The County needs both a legal opinion and a financial risk analysis using the actual template of legal documentation that the developer is proposing; and the developer should pay for the County's expenses in getting those tasks done. After all, this developer has not satisfied the State's normal underwriting requirements. Why should the County step in with its far more limited resources without independent expert assurances?

Bob Baker  
Columbia

Open letter to our neighbors and the North Country Chamber of Commerce,

Many of our local residents and several North Country Chamber of Commerce members support and promote healthy lifestyles including hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, and raising local organic foods, as well as promoting the natural beauty and tranquility of the area.

Those of us who live on roads currently used by ATVs as part of their trail system have lost this. Many who live on dirt roads

the traditional activities described above are having second thoughts. ATVs as a sport belong off neighborhood residential roads.

However, health risks might be the most pressing concern. After serving in the U.S. Public Health Service as a Commissioned Officer for over 29 years, I chose to return to this area for the tranquility, neighborly lifestyle and beauty. I am seriously concerned about the health risks from the dust and noise levels created by ATV traffic on our neighborhood roads. The dust that is kicked by the ATVs travels great distances and seeps into our homes. Young children and adults with pre-existing medical conditions such as asthma, COPD, and other respiratory problems are at particular risks from the dust. The noise levels of ATVs measure anywhere from 70 upwards to 100 decibels. The constant noise from ATVs is an irritant that can lead to elevated blood pressures and over time to other cardiovascular reactions.

As I went door to door in several towns to speak with our neighbors who live on the roads used by ATVs, they spoke of the loss of their right as homeowners to have a home and yard that is quiet, clean and peaceful. Many shared that the very reasons they moved to this area have been destroyed.

The argument to having ATVs on town roads is similar to the argument used for not banning smoking in public places. Economic concerns. It is well known that smoking is unhealthy for smokers, unhealthy for non

smokers who are in the presence of those smoking, and now we know that to live in a house where smokers lived previously is equally unhealthy. Smoking was banned in restaurants and bars and they did not close—as many owners feared. In fact, banning smoking made restaurants and bars a better place for all of us to enjoy together.

The same is true of our neighborhoods. ATVs have a place in the North Country to enjoy their sport—just not on our neighborhood town roads. Promoting ATVs on neighborhood roads is like having the Marlboro man riding his horse in the fresh air promoting smoking. It is misleading and negligent.

Neighbors and members of the North Country Chamber of Commerce, we need your support. The promotion of riding ATVs on town roads undermines, not just neighborhoods, but many of the other businesses in the area that benefit from those seeking to enjoy traditional and non-motorized recreation. Just as we support our local businesses and shop locally whenever possible, we now need your support in restoring the tranquility and peace to our neighborhoods. ATVs belong in the wilds—not on neighborhood roads.

Monique Petrofsky  
Stewartstown

Letter to the Editor,


How many members has Sununu appointed to the SEC?

According to the law, 162-H:3, the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) is to be comprised of nine members: the commissioners of *(Continued on page 13)*

**Christmas**  
**December 21**  
*The Rev. Brendan*  
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*This Weekend:*  
**LUNCH SPECIALS**  
**at APRIL's MAPLE**  
*The Spicy: Pepper Jack Cheese, Maple Sriracha, & Jalapeno's*  
*The Vermont: Cheddar Cheese and Maple Cream*  
*The Italian: Mozzarella Cheese, Pepperoni, and Marinara Sauce*  
**SOUP: Turkey Taco**  
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