

Commissioners want to relinquish local control

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March 06, 2016

Letter-To-The-Editor

The Grants Pass Daily Courier

<http://www.thedailycourier.com/articles/2016/03/05/letters/news000005.txt>

The Josephine County commissioners drafted a letter to the governor relating to HB3453 and are plotting to blatantly circumvent the will of the electorate.

We have consistently voted down eight levies or taxing districts since 2004, but now the commissioners want to betray the majority of those voters. The commissioners' actions are duplicitous. They cry about crime, but when given the opportunity to make a difference, they won't. They refuse to give money to the sheriff from road reserve funds, unexpected timber revenues or money originally allocated for what is now unnecessary water testing.

This fiscal crisis is just a fictitious creation of the commissioners' own making. Their justification for this action is based on anecdotal evidence rather than fact. Oregon State Police statistics do not support their premise that crime is rampant and at a public safety emergency level.

The commissioners want to relinquish control of the county to the governor for the tantalizing allure of some matching-fund money. This is fiscally short-sighted and unsound considering the strings attached.

We don't need commissioners who will sell out our sovereignty and abdicate their authority to the governor. This is clearly contrary to the vested power granted solely to the commissioners by the County Charter.

The commissioners are simply acting like spoiled brats, frustrated that they're not getting their way. A savvy electorate won't vote for new levies, because we know they only want more money from the citizenry to remedy the fiscal mismanagement they have created.

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Merlin