

I'm 73 years old, and retired from both the U.S. Air Force and the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. I spent about 20 years in each career. Yes, you're welcome for my military service, but that's not relevant to the subject at hand.

However, my teaching years have given me insight that you perhaps don't have, and which you need to properly consider Measure 98. Why? Consider a couple of analogies: First, climate change is a fact. Not a false fact, or an alternative fact, but a real, true fact. I know some say otherwise, but science proves them wrong. You don't believe in science? Throw this letter away. You are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem and, yes, I'm serious.

Second, don't bother planting trees. I know, the state says we should, but why bother? We won't see the results of our plantings for decades, if at all (remember, I'm 73). Let our kids and grandkids take care of it; after all, it's really their problem. If either of these analogies gives you pause for thought, you should consider their similarities to Measure 98, and I'll tell you why.

The key factor that Measure 98 shares with my analogies is time. Each of the situations requires that something be done now in order to produce a positive future outcome! We can't wait until later to fix these things! We won't have time! Many of you may disagree with me about climate change. OK, let that one go. It truly won't affect us to any large extent. Just our kids and grandkids, and who cares about them?

Same with the trees. I know a lot of jobs in Oregon depend on them, and good things happen as a result of conservation and recycling, but hey! My job doesn't (I'm retired, remember?), and yours maybe doesn't either. So let's let someone else worry about the trees, too.

Measure 98, though presents more of a problem, and it's a lot harder to ignore. The program uses proven methods, financed by available funds, not stolen from anyone else's pet project. And, it helps real kids, in school today, learn how to use their skills and abilities to become productive citizens. This truly is the foundation for our future (all of us!), and I really hope you'll help make it happen!

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