

The Importance of Grassroots Engagement!



Forestry

Agriculture



Chemical
& Other

OFS Members

- Individuals
- Associations
- Businesses

OFS Primary Issues

- Pesticides
- Fertilizer
- Biotechnology



The Ground Game:
A Shift in Strategy



Local Initiatives

Jackson County

- ▶ GE Crop Ban

Josephine County

- ▶ GE Crop & Pesticide Bans

Benton County

- ▶ GE Crop Ban

Lincoln County

- ▶ Aerial Pesticide Ban

Lane County

- ▶ Aerial Herbicide Ban
- ▶ GE Crop Ban
- ▶ Community Rights Initiative



Lincoln County Aerial Spray Ban



Section 4 – Statements of Law – Prohibitions Necessary to Secure the Bill of Rights

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any corporation to violate any right secured by this Ordinance.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any corporation to engage in aerial spraying of pesticides within Lincoln County.
- (c) Corporations engaged in aerial spraying of pesticides in any municipality or designated jurisdiction adjacent to Lincoln County shall be strictly liable for damages caused by those pesticides to the residents and ecosystems within Lincoln County.
- (d) No permit, license, privilege, charter, or other authority issued by any State or federal entity that would violate the rights of this Ordinance, shall be deemed valid within Lincoln County.

Section 5 – Enforcement

(d) If the County Government fails to enforce or defend this law, or a court fails to uphold this law's limitations on corporate power, this law shall not be affected by the failure to enforce or defend, or by the failure to uphold the limitations on corporate power, and any person may then enforce the rights and prohibitions of this law through direct action. If enforcement through direct action is commenced, this law shall prohibit any private or public actor from filing a civil or criminal action against those participating in direct action. If filed in violation of this provision, the applicable court must dismiss the action promptly, without further filings being required of direct action participants. "Direct action" as used by this provision shall mean any activities or actions carried out to directly enforce the rights and prohibitions contained within this law."

Lincoln County Aerial Spray Ban



- ▶ Election held on May 16, 2017
- ▶ Passed by 61 votes
- ▶ Court challenge filed
 - ▶ Preemption
 - ▶ Hearing on October 9
 - ▶ Ruling expected anytime
 - ▶ Appeal expected

Lane County Aerial Spray Ban



(b) It shall be unlawful for any corporation or governmental entity to engage in aerial spraying of herbicides within Lane County.

- ▶ “Lane County Freedom from Aerial Spraying Bill of Rights” Would ban the aerial application of herbicides in the county.
- ▶ Approved on October 28, 2015.
- ▶ Proponents had 2 years to collect 11,506 valid signatures to appear on the May 2018 ballot. Signatures turned in October 2017.
- ▶ Also, in October 2017 the County Council recommended that a ballot number not be assigned to the measure as he determined that the measure contains multiple amendments and does not meet that statutory requirements to appear on the ballot.
- ▶ Decision was Litigated. March 7, 2018 the court ruled in agreement with the County Council.
- ▶ Intent to Appeal was filed on April 24, 2018.

Lane County “Community Rights”



- ▶ Would declare that state and federal laws don't preempt local charter
- ▶ Filed with Clerk on September 30, 2016
- ▶ Proponents have 2 years to collect 11,506 valid signatures
- ▶ Signatures turned in May, 2018
- ▶ County Council recommended that a ballot number not be assigned to the measure as he determined that the measure contains multiple amendments and does not meet that statutory requirements to appear on the ballot.

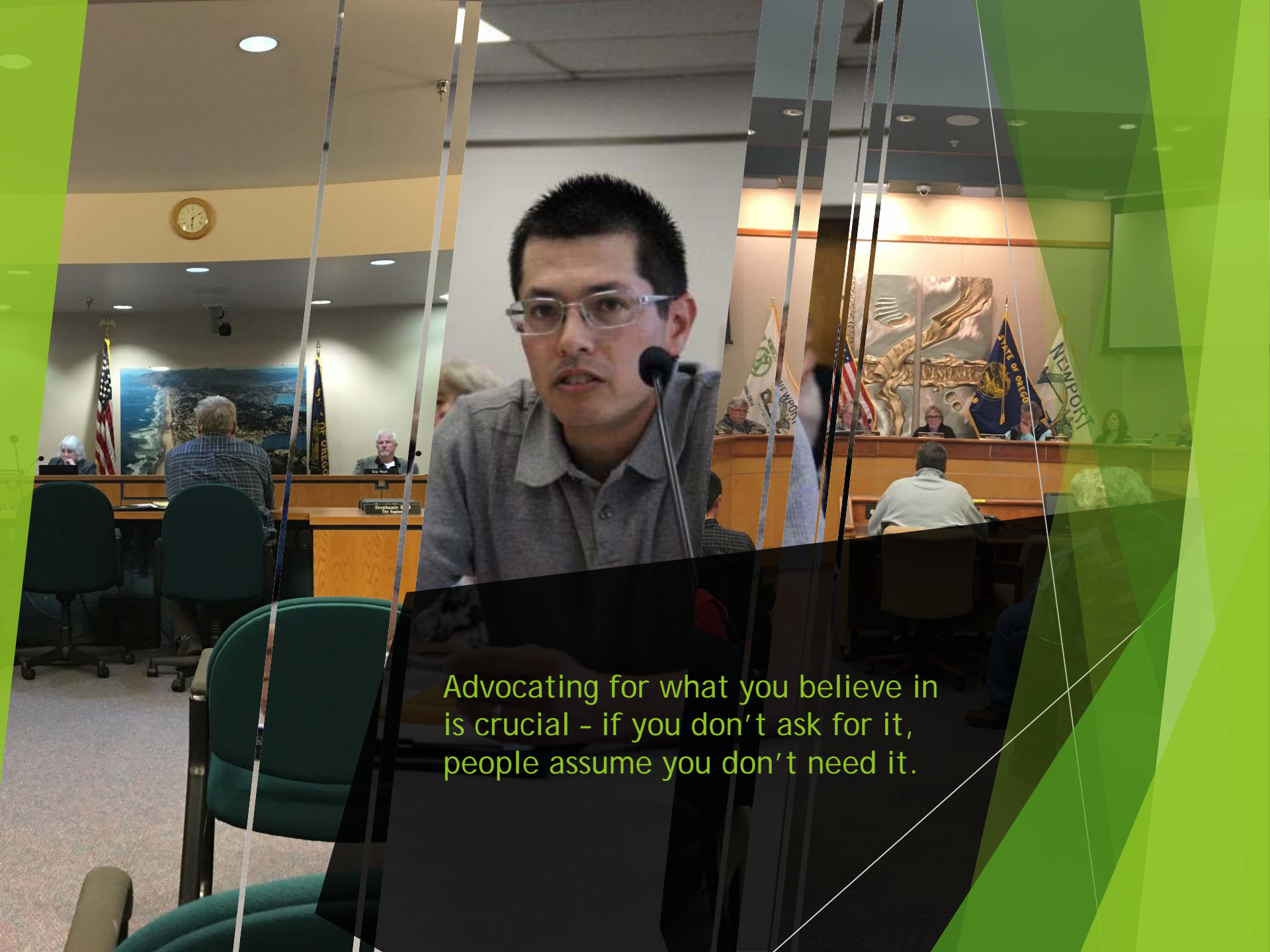
Section 2 – Statement of Law – Enforcement. Local laws adopted pursuant to this Charter Amendment shall not be subject to preemption or nullification by state law, federal law, or international law, unless the local laws restrict fundamental rights of natural persons, their local communities, or nature secured by local, state, or federal constitutions, or by international law, or unless the local laws weaken protections for natural persons, their local communities, or nature provided by state law, federal law, or international law.

Get involved!

Your Issue

Not Your Issue





Advocating for what you believe in is crucial - if you don't ask for it, people assume you don't need it.



The Levels of Grassroots Advocacy

- ▶ **Build relationships with elected officials.**
 - ▶ Do you know your county commissioners or legislators?
 - ▶ Don't overlook the staff
 - ▶ Invite them to your farm for a tour
 - ▶ Calls, letters, emails
 - ▶ Follow on social media
- ▶ **Testify at the Capitol**
 - ▶ OFS, OSWA can help
- ▶ **Letters to the Editor**
 - ▶ Regional publications
 - ▶ Consider your audience
- ▶ **Statewide Campaigns**
- ▶ **Social Media & the Comments Section**

“10 people who speak
make more noise than
10,000 who are silent.”

Napoleon Bonaparte



Join...

- ▶ Lane Families for Farms and Forests
- ▶ Lincoln County Farm to Forest Tour Committee
- ▶ Tillamook Working Lands and Waters Cooperative
- ▶ Clatsop Working Watersheds Cooperative
- ▶ Other grassroots efforts - start one! We'll help!





REAL OREGON

Resource Education & Agricultural Leadership Program

Pioneer Class 2017-2018

Questions....

Katie Fast

Executive Director

503-510-5239 - katie@ofsonline.org