

Oregon's Future is a magazine of opinion. Our articles are offered as the views of people who are actively involved in controversial issues, not as rigorously objective accounts prepared by disinterested observers. Our editorial objective is to foster rational discussion of important issues, so we require our authors to maintain a rational tone, avoiding exaggeration or insult. We also require our authors to take their opponents' views seriously. Where factual statements may be at issue, we expect authors to provide sufficient documentation for us and our readers to pursue independent verification. But our editors do not take responsibility for verification of all factual statements that authors make. If our readers have questions about the veracity of particular articles, they should raise them in letters or in articles of their own.



To the readers of *Oregon's Future*

This issue of *Oregon's Future* is the first to result from a new partnership and collaboration between the Future of Oregon Inc. and the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC) at Willamette University. While these two organizations have different institutional roots, their missions have much in common. Both organizations seek to educate Oregonians through facilitating their discussion of policy issues affecting the state. Our organizations also bring different abilities and strengths to their common mission. The Future of Oregon Inc. is a grassroots, volunteer effort that publicizes a diverse body of voices from the community. The Public Policy Research Center is based in academia, possessing strong ties to the policy community. Together they aspire to provide Oregonians a truly diverse set of perspectives relating to public policy in Oregon.

The collaboration between the Future of Oregon, Inc. and the PPRC also draws strength from the synergy between each organization's activities. In its effort to enhance its offering of timely public affairs information via the Web, the PPRC now hosts all past issues of *Oregon's Future* at www.oregonsfuture.org and through a link from the PPRC web page, www.willamette.edu/publicpolicy. In addition, the PPRC annually hosts several policy forums at its location across the street from Oregon's State Capitol in Salem. *Oregon's Future* publishes comprehensive, written 'forums'—collections of articles relating to a single major policy topic that allow key policy participants

and concerned citizens to share their perspectives through a candid, honest platform. By combining our efforts and aligning these live forums with their published counterparts, both efforts are strengthened. Featuring a number of forum authors such as Connie Farmer and John Tapogna, the first jointly sponsored policy forum discussing the topic featured in this issue—last year's Ballot Measure 7—was held on April 18th. The live forum's full agenda, information on ordering videotape copies of the event, and the schedule for its airing on CCTV all are available on the PPRC web page.

We at *Oregon's Future* and the Public Policy Research Center would like to thank Professor Fred Thompson of the Willamette University Atkinson School of Management. Professor Thompson, who has previously contributed to *Oregon's Future* and who edited the forum on Tax Policy for the Summer/Fall 2000 issue, was the first to suggest that a collaboration between our organizations might be fruitful. We commend him for his matchmaking skills and look forward to a long and interesting partnership.

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