

Doris Smith

See comments from Lynden Open House

April 22, 2019

Hello,

I think that public-thought presentations by citizens ought to be freely received today by the Department of Ecology, because this department's interpretation of the "Hirst Fix" will affect the life, liberty, and property of all citizens, including those who work in the Department of Ecology.

The principle of liberty in our American form of government grants citizens the power to rule themselves by means of representation. Elected representatives frame the laws which, in turn, citizens consent to obey. This means the people are to be governed by the principle of representation; and following such representative action, they agree to govern themselves according to the rule of the law which their representatives have drawn up.

The Department of Ecology is not today composed of publicly-elected people; but of people who have been selected through a behind-the-scenes hiring process. No constitutional checks and balances bear on their selection. This is a recipe for tyranny, which is the only possible governing response to anarchy, unless a third alternative is selected, which is the alternative our Founding Fathers selected when they drew up a plan for a Federal Constitutional Republic such as we have in America.

People are becoming irate due to the Department of Ecology arrogating power to itself as a tyrannical force which subdues citizens. So, the people are likely to respond with angered disorder over the imposition of power being exerted by this one group of people (the Department of Ecology) over another group of people (the property owners abiding within the counties).

Any principle of tyranny needs to be corrected. The Department of Ecology should not have **unelected** power, for it does not **represent** the people.

As native-born citizens of this country, we have constitutional power granted to us to voluntarily unite in agreement and ignore the Department of Ecology, because its rules have been made and imposed without conforming to the principle of representative government by which our nation was founded. Rules made by an unelected bureau, agency, or department, such as the Department of Ecology, which directly impact the people and are outside the reach of our elected representatives, are rules which are not consistent with our laws, nor with the purposes of our Republic, which is to protect our life, liberty, and property.

(Note: the word "life" in our founding documents did not mean the same thing as when we say "way of life." To protect our "way of life" is subject to interpretation, and the Department of Ecology could say it is protecting our "way of life," meaning our "pristine wilderness," as though we citizens are ultimately to be conceived of as "noble savages" who are trying to protect and return to the "wilderness," so that we can hunt and fish and be good there. The word "life," I think, is literal in its usage, in our U. S. Constitution. It means a person's breath. We as human beings need to be able to physically, mentally, and spiritually live, i.e. we need to be able to carry on our physical existence, which includes drinking water out of faucets, eating food grown for us by farmers, and breathing air affected by transportation fuels, so that we may be able to carry on our existence according to present-day realities.)

Thank you.

Mrs. Doris Smith
Citizen of Whatcom County, Washington

I am going to ask governmental questions.

These are thought questions.

I am thinking governmentally. Are you thinking governmentally?

Who or what is in control?

What is in control in this situation? People, or laws? If people are in control, are they the elected representatives of the citizens, or are they the non-elected government workers (bureaucrats) selected through a behind-the-scenes hiring process?

Who should be in control? What should be in control? If we are a nation of laws, then laws should be in control, and these laws should have been drawn up by elected representatives of the people.

Our Federal Constitutional Republic was founded upon the principle of individual and local self-government. This principle states that each person is responsible to govern himself-- his life, his home, and his property, as much as possible, by himself, under God.

We are a nation which believes each individual lives here, in the land of our birth, by the direct hand of God. God gave us our life, he gave us our breath, he gave (and continues to give) us the ability and power to think, to move, to make choices, to grow and work, to collect the reward of our labor, dispensing it out again to buy property, build houses, and apply the sweat of our brow and the soul of our life to its improvement. This is our property. It comes from God and is united with our faculties, skills, efforts, and abilities.

So, I ask who or what is in control? Is it the state, or is it the individual in voluntary union with other people of similar station as himself— individuals who want to make their life and land the best it can be, for their mutual benefit and welfare?

Is it not a founding principle of our country, that we have a government that is of the people, by the people, and for the people?

Is it the individual, the citizen, the landowner who is governing in the Department of Ecology decisions?

Or is it a collective, nameless mass of bureaucrats who are ruling according to an unarticulated and unclear philosophy which ultimately thinks the earth is running down and who are trying to do something about that, while endangering people, because this philosophy doesn't think people have more value than the land or animals?

Or is it a nameless mass of governing officials who are seeking to exert power and lord themselves over other people—people who are just as rational, qualified, and more personally invested in the land than the bureaucrats and non-elected persons comprising the Department of Ecology?