



COMMON SENSE FOR OREGON

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Common Sense For Oregon staff pictured above: (Top from left) Ross Day, Teresa Lucas. (Bottom from left) Amber Koch, Sarah Vasche, Todd Marshall.

Welcome to the Common Sense For Oregon ENewsletter. You are receiving this because you have been identified as a person with common sense. Congratulations!

Who We Are

In February of 2009, Common Sense For Oregon was founded for a simple purpose – to make Oregon a better place to live and raise a family. Common Sense For Oregon’s focus is to promote common sense reforms to Oregon government that will ultimately help reach our goal of making Oregon a better place to live and raise a family.

Common Sense For Oregon supports greater accountability and transparency in our state and local government. For instance, Common Sense For Oregon supports common sense reforms to Oregon’s budget process, including and especially requiring the state of Oregon’s budget to comply (as nearly as possible) with general accounting principles and standards. Have you ever tried to make sense of the state of Oregon’s budget? Even trained accountants have a difficult (if not impossible) time interpreting the budget and determining where your tax dollars are really going and how they are being spent. One of the common sense reforms we support is greater transparency in the government’s budget process, including requiring the government to publish comprehensible budget information on the internet.



Had you heard of Common Sense For Oregon before this email?

Yes

No

If yes, do you believe Common Sense For Oregon is bringing about real change in Oregon?

Yes

No

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E-mail:

And when the government wastes your tax dollars, you can bet Common Sense For Oregon will highlight the waste through its "Golden Fleece Award". We are proud of the attention our efforts have already garnered, and the changes in how the government spends your tax dollars that have come about as a result of our Golden Fleece Award.



There are many other common sense reforms we will be pushing over the coming years. We will detail those reforms on the pages of this newsletter for the weeks and months to come, and ask for your help in making those reforms become a reality. And of course, we welcome your suggestions as well. If you have an idea to reform the way government operates, we would love to hear about it and maybe we can start the process of making you idea become a reality.

2009 was Common Sense For Oregon's inaugural year, and we accomplished a lot. We have equally high hopes for 2010, and

expect our list of accomplishments to continue to grow. But we cannot continue to be successful without your continued support of Common Sense For Oregon and the principles upon which we stand. We look forward to working with you over the next year at the various county fairs and community events held around Oregon. If you see us, please stop by and say "Hello", we would love to meet you.



Thanks again for your support, and God bless.

Ross Day

Executive Director and General Counsel

Come hear Ross Day speak in Burns on Saturday at Noon!

Where: Burns Elks Lodge to the Tea Party group

When: The event lasts from noon to 5pm.

Golden Fleece Award



You may know us from our ads for the Golden Fleece Award, which we bestow on Oregon Government entities that we've discovered are wasting your tax dollars!

The first of our three Golden Fleece Award recipients was the Department of Corrections, for wasting \$773,000 every budget cycle on free soda pop for prisoners. The DOC took a second look at this criminal policy and has announced they will now serve tea instead.

Our second award went to Tri-Met for spending \$1,932 per month, per employee for Cadillac health insurance premiums, retirees included! The state plan costs 65% less. Tri-Met admits to cutting a bad deal, and knows they need to jump aboard the savings train.

And our latest Fleece was awarded to the Department of Human Services and former State Senator Margaret Carter for using her position on the Ways and Means Committee to craft a bill with a provision for a new position for herself at DHS with a \$100,000 pay increase. We filed a lawsuit last week with the

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state questioning the constitutionality of this self-dealing.

Know of Government Waste or Outrageous Spending? Expose it Anonymously by [CLICKING HERE](#) or Calling the Tip Line at 1-877-U-Fleece (1-877-835-3323).

Thank you for supporting us in our mission to bring Common Sense solutions to Oregon's problems.

If you would like to make a donation to our cause, please click on the link below.

www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr

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