

If you look at our currency, the words “this note is legal tender for all debts, public and private” is printed on each bill. The Legislature should pass Senate Bill 1565 and make this statement true in Oregon.

*Chris Wig, Springfield*

## **Baxter was beyond toxic**

The R-G article on the dioxin levels found near homes in the area of the J.H. Baxter & Co. wood treatment plant in Eugene deserves some background. Beyond Toxics, a local nonprofit organization, began alerting the public and Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority about the health risks from the Baxter back in 2010.

**Read about J.H. Baxter:** Shuttered J.H. Baxter says it can't pay for cleanup of Eugene neighbors' toxic soil. Now what?

Beyond Toxics' efforts to alert people of the toxicity included interviewing residents, publishing reports, convening meetings with government officials and holding countless community meetings. Authorities seemed to sleep through the complaints and reports, even the successful civil rights complaint with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Finally, Beyond Toxics requested cancer analysis from the state, which found higher-than-average rates of lung cancer and Hodgkin's lymphoma in neighborhoods near Baxter Co.

This latest win was the result of years' worth of work. Thank you, Beyond Toxics.

*Susan Applegate, Yoncalla*

## **Mulholland is the people-powered candidate we need**

In Wednesday's paper, Aeron Lerch spoke of the need for a people-powered leader to replace Rep. Peter DeFazio. Zachary Mulholland is that candidate. Zachary has been amazing on the Active Bethel Community Board helping us get our voices heard in city government, helped shut down J.H. Baxter in his job with Beyond Toxics and helped pass state and local climate policy as chair of the Eugene Sustainability Commission and Healthy Climate Coalition. In addition, Zachary has pledged to take absolutely zero corporate PAC money.

I know we can rely on Zachary Mulholland to fight for us in Congress, ensuring good jobs, funding for affordable housing and homelessness programs and creative solutions to address the top issues in our community like homelessness, affordable housing and climate change.