

Letters, Media Comments 8-2014 thru 3-2014 (links may not be current)

8-26 Des News comment to:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865609540/New-line-powers-growth-dependability-and-public-safety-in-Beaver-County.html?pg=all>

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

Incredible! It's taken this long to address power needs in an area already known for substantial renewable energy resources - both solar PV and wind. Surely some of that geothermal 'fluctuation' and the growth in demand could have been at least partly accommodate with more local power generation.

Electricity generation and delivery in this 21st Century needs to be based on multiple, ideally local, sources, means of storage, a systems approach to demand and generation management, and a more resilient approach to delivery.

Why do we have power company officials and County Commissioners who do not insist on and advocate for less traditional and less cumbersome solutions?

8-17 MT Standard, Butte, re:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/17/us/politics/montana-democrats-pick-novice-for-senate-race.html>

my letter (not published).

Thank you Amanda Curtis and MT Democrats! There is hope.
I was delighted to learn that a woman, teacher, and someone who can add and subtract is running for Senate.
Our two Utah Senators deserve such opponents - and they'll eventually get them.

I hope MT youth, the education community, the math-science-technical communities, and many others work hard to get her elected.

It doesn't take a lot of money - it takes people working - getting off their duffs and working to get votes, rather than always complaining.

I tried this in Utah and made some progress. See The RUN, my one year experiment in Democracy, at

2andrade.org.

Good luck, Amanda. You have a supporter in Utah.

8-16 Letter to heraldextra.com re ut country road needs:

Utah County officials say 'We need more freeways' to deal with rapid growth. Why? Just say No!

Utah County's air improved drastically with the closure of Geneva Steel some dozen years ago. Since then the area has recovered, grown greatly, and is planning for population and traffic doublings - all of which will likely make the air worse than in the Geneva days.

Welcome to allergy, asthma, respiratory distress, and other health issues. Talk with your physician and pediatrician!

We have one planet, one Utah, one Utah County - why continue to trash them?

Populations and economies can be sustainable.

Can't we grow up and face reality?

8-16-2014 SL Trib on Ut County roads growth:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/58301039-90/transportation-utah-county-mountain.html.csp>

Comment:

lost or didn't go thru - no copy!

7-20 des news published

7-17 SL Trib Jenkins and Mussels:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/58191171-78/lake-mussels-utah-quagga.html.csp>

Comment:

Good plan. Now expand it to other needs that benefit specific populations. A surcharge on auto, truck registrations to pay into the highway fund, for example. A surcharge on ATV, etc. vehicles to help pay for trail maintenance, safety, oversight. A surcharge on marriage licenses to help with family planning education and awareness.

Others?

7-6 Des News BLM leases too slow:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865606391/Report-Too-much-BLM-time-threatens-billions-of-dollars-in-oil-and-gas-revenue.html>

Comment:

Clearly all applications for Federal action should be handled competently, efficiently, and expeditiously. And clearly there are improvements to be made. But...

what is the point of approving thousands of drilling permits when we know that nearly all fossil fuel reserves need to remain exactly where they are - in the ground. We have already exceeded the tolerable level of CO2 in our atmosphere, according to nearly all measures and models. We need to get beyond fossil fuels.

As Princess Elsa might say - "let them go..."

And even if you are oblivious to the climate change issue, the BLM doesn't have the budget to inspect and regulate existing wells, raising a wide range of health and other environmental concerns. Until they have the budget and staff to inspect and regulate drilling and production of existing wells and leases, there should be a moratorium on new permits, new approvals, new leases.

Savvy investors and financiers are already leaving - and divesting from - fossil fuel-based industries. They are putting their money into 21st Century energy and resource activities. Those continuing to invest in fossil fuels will eventually - and hopefully - lose their shirts - and more.

7-3 Des News My View by Cody Stewart:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865606262/Coal-plays-important-role-in-powering-Utah.html>

my comment:

Thanks Mr. Stewart, for reading the headline of my Coal MyView piece published June 15. Although you read the headline, you apparently didn't read the content of the piece. Fortunately most of the other commenters here have noted the shortcomings and misleading nature of your words.

Coal can never be 'clean'; it will always release CO2 and a wide range of trace elements and other toxic constituents. The only practical way of sequestering CO2 is to feed it to growing algae or plants. The best way to sequester it is to leave it right where it is, in the ground.

You say "there may very well be a day when coal's role in energy production is diminished." Yes, and that day is today, as your Energy Summit keynote speaker so clearly stated. Were you there, listening? Herbert was.

The time is now to work with our fossil fuel counties to move on. Where are the state incentives and programs to get beyond coal? Where is the Governor's vision for a 21st Century economy for Utah? These are not partisan issues. These are health, environment, and economic issues.

Thanks for reading - and thinking.

7-2-2014

SL Trib Editorial on oil sands:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58138387-82/utah-sands-state-oil.html.csp>

Comment:

Thanks for the mention of periodic table and trace elements. Anyone can Google tar sands or oil sands AND trace elements and see for themselves what a witch's brew is left behind, flows with the water, or (when burned) is released as particulates or ash. The Roman physician Paracelsus said: The dose is the poison. They are all there: Arsenic, Mercury, Cadmium, Lead - pick your poison. We no longer need to develop marginal, toxic, dirty fuels - let them stay in the ground.

7-1 NY Times letter re Brooks:

Today's David Brooks' column - The Evolution of Trust - is perceptive and helpful, and already very well known to a growing sector of the population. The Peer-to-Peer Economy is exactly what the sustainable living community has been advocating for many decades. We welcome David to the discussion.

Where he gets it wrong, soon, is saying energy will continue to operate as top-down. That is true, for the time being. But wrong - in the very near future. Homeowners have been installing micro-energy systems using solar collectors (electricity and thermal), battery storage (now including using their electric vehicle in their local 'system'), geotechnical, and even fuel cell-based storage and generation components. Such ultra-local, largely or fully grid-independent, and highly resilient installations lend

themselves to neighbor - to - neighbor scaling.

The Evolution of Trust continues to grow. Thanks,
David.

6-27 Des News oil trains:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765655896/APNewsBreak-Oil-train-dangers-extend-past-Bakken.html>

My comment:

Oils derived from shale and tar sands are marginal fuels and rapidly becoming economically non-viable. Savvy investors are already pulling out of such investments, as well as coal. There is now great concern that natural gas derived via fracking may be committing to its own perhaps premature suicide by allowing extensive methane, tolerating inadequate inspection, and encouraging inadequate regulation and oversight.

All this is happening while renewable energies continue to become far more price attractive, and as energy storage technologies and processes continue to improve and develop.

Combine these facts and trends with the safety issues associated with rail, truck, and pipeline transport of viscous, marginal oils and the whole economic pyramid begins to crumble.

That means we don't need a 'keystone' pipeline in Utah (Tesoro's proposed Uinta Express), and we don't need a \$2 billion oil railroad from Vernal to Price. If these projects are built, likely with enormous public subsidies, they will be largely unusable once energy economics puts the final set of nails in the fossil fuels coffin - and we and our kids will be left paying off boondoggle bonds.

Fossil fuels are a remnant of the 19th-20th Centuries. We're now in the 21st.

6-27 sl trib fred ash letter:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58103568-82/utah-education-effort-federal.html.csp>

my very brief comment re Ivory in Des.

6-27 Letter to The Spectrum:

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/2014/07/02/letters-editor/12122389/>

Representative Ken Ivory asks Why the difference? in his June 17
MyView printed in the Deseret News June 17: [http://
www.deseretnews.com/article/865605306/Public-lands-Why-the-
difference.html](http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605306/Public-lands-Why-the-difference.html)

The Difference is TIME.

We are now in a 21st Century with severe environmental, population, economic, and governmental problems.

The enabling act language was based on 18th and 19th century assumptions about vastness, lack of constraints, the desirability of growth. The land and air are no longer vast, we need to begin to operate under some constraints (we engineers call them 'boundary conditions'), and we can no longer accept unlimited growth.

In addition Utah is governed by a Legislature and Governor who subscribe to a 19th Century, hard-wired, ideological mentality that is no longer relevant - and indeed is very dangerous - to societal and national survival in the 21st Century.

We cannot afford to permit such a Legislature and Governor to have any authority over now-Federal lands, for fear that the state would mismanage and degrade such lands. It is your (and my) kids and grandkids who will most suffer those consequences.

Talk with (not to) your kids - they understand.

6-25 Des News

Eyre column on having babies:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605716/Bad-statistics-that-stop-people-from-having-kids.html>

comment:

Population is indeed a world issue and a local issue. Utah is planning on a doubling of its population in the next 25 or so years, about 75% of that due to our very high birth rate.

At the Governor's recent Energy Development Summit, his energy advisor, Cody Stewart said 'We like big families here.' and then showed a cartoon video of a family with 8 kids. That's big! Each kid will want a house, a car, a job, and other amenities - and most will want to live on or very near the Wasatch Front.

Urban Utah is already partially asphyxiated in the winter months; we are now seeing severe air pollution and health issues in the Uinta Basin, as well.

There are limits, constraints - what engineers call boundary conditions.

Kids are wonderful. We love them. But we also need to be responsible. It is OK to Plan. Small families are fine - as well as bigger ones.

World Vasectomy Day is Oct. 17. Real men get snipped!

Lisa Roche story on Primaries, etc.:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605761/Former-Rep-Brad-Daw-beats-incumbent-Rep-Dana-Layton-in-GOP-primary.html>

my comment

Thanks to Randy Miller and the Independent Voters groups for working on the open primaries initiatives. Readers should also note that there are many non-party (unaffiliated) candidates on the ballot in November: Bill Barron, US Congress, District 2; Ben Mates and one other, US Congress, District 3; and perhaps others. Unaffiliated candidates bring fresh voices and perspectives as they are not bound to the rigid platforms of the 2 major parties.

And Congratulations to Jeff Hatch for County Auditor. One election down, one to go!

comment to molen op-ed:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605754/An-economic-case-for-divesting-from-fossil-fuels.html>

6-22 SL Trib Princess Elsa op-ed:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58062135-82/coal-energy-assumptions-elements.html.csp>

6-20 desNews growth recession?:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605245/Is-it-possible-that-Americans-may-not-recover-from-the-recession.html>

MY COMMENT:

It's not too few babies, it's not immigration, it's not Obama.

It's because we are now in a 21st Century and operating with the expectation that our 19th and early 20th Century ingrained, hard-wired assumptions are still valid. They are not. We no longer have nearly infinite land, air, and other resources. Earth is one small planet with over 7B and moving to 9B people.

Our economy is in a tough transition from a constant growth economy (essential a Ponzi or Pyramid scheme economy) to a resource-sustainable economy. Many of the younger generation get that and are already in transition. The older - and the oldest - will have a more difficult time. That includes nearly all conventional (growth-oriented) economists, legislators, Governors, and even Presidents.

As long as we look to growth for the 'solution', we'll be disappointed. We have to get beyond those assumptions and that mentality.

The kids get it. Talk with them. Good luck.

6-20 sl trib rolly on lifferth chevy volt, my comment:

joeandrade · a few seconds ago

So if Lifferth helps pay his Chevy Volt lease with State government mileage reimbursements, then Mike Noel (Rep., Kanab) should be able to lease and drive a Tesla, correct? Then those 80 mph I-15 UDOT speed limits could really be exciting. Go Mike!

6-20 letter to San Juan Record:

According to the Tesla Motors web site Blanding is getting (or perhaps already has) a Tesla Supercharger installation. Congratulations!

What an opportunity for San Juan County! Use the charger and the Tesla PR as an opportunity to leapfrog your economy.

While the rest of Eastern Utah chases fossil fuels, aided and abetted by a Governor and Legislature still mired in the 18th and 19th Centuries, San Juan County should and could lead Utah into the 21st Century.

Talk to Mr. Musk of Tesla Motors. Maybe he could have part of his new battery giga-factory, or SolarCity giga-solar panel plant in SE Utah, rather than in New York or Pennsylvania.

Why doesn't the state Energy Office and GOED (Econ. Development) get off their duffs and do something innovative - to help San Juan County!

Good luck.

6-19 Calgary Herald Utah hostile letter:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Utah+hostile/9953020/story.html>

6-17 Des News letter and comment to Ivory op-ed: (letter reminder 6-27 - need 60 days between printings - so sent to The Spectrum on 6-27).

part of letter published July 20

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605306/Public-lands-Why-the-difference.html>

Representative Ken Ivory asks Why the difference? in his June 17 MyView. The Difference is TIME.

We are now in a 21st Century with severe environmental, population, economic, and governmental problems.

The enabling act language was based on 18th and 19th century assumptions about vastness, lack of constraints, the desirability of growth. The land and air are no longer vast, we need to begin to operate under some constraints (we engineers call them 'boundary conditions'), and we can no longer accept unlimited growth.

In addition Utah is governed by a Legislature and Governor who subscribe to a 19th Century, hard-wired, ideological mentality that is no longer relevant - and indeed is very dangerous - to societal and national survival in the 21st Century.

We cannot afford to permit such a Legislature and Governor to have any authority over now-Federal lands, for fear that the state would mis-manage and degrade such lands. It is your (and my) kids and grandkids who will most suffer those consequences.

Talk with (not to) your kids - they understand.

6-16 comment to Maffly no inspection story of 6-15:

<http://m.sltrib.com/sltrib/mobile3/58055908-219/wells-blm-utah-oil.html.csp>

Natural gas is committing its own suicide - by discouraging regulation, inspection, and compliance; by insisting on more leases and more wells without the infrastructure to assure they are done properly. The existing gas infrastructure is leaking large amounts of methane - in the range of 10% of total methane removed and released. Methane is far worse than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas. So not only is coal being 'killed' by natural gas due to coal's own greenhouse and air pollution problems, the natural gas industry - and all those anti-climate change politicians it funds - is inadvertently designing the death of natural gas - by self-inflicted suicide. Because as soon as we fully realize just how bad the natural gas infrastructure is, there will be major actions and protests to shut it all down. Then where will we be?

Why is the State Office of Oil and Gas Mining, the Utah BLM, the Governor - not advocating for full inspection and regulation? They should all be supporting the tightening and implementation of regs to greatly decrease methane leaks and emissions.

The best solution (the 'free' market!) is a fat fee on all carbon sources (including all the leaked methane) with most of the revenues returned to all taxpayers - per capita - that's the citizensclimatelobby fee and dividend plan. Look it up.

6-16 comment to wild horses study of 6-15:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/58029163-78/wild-horses-control-blm.html.csp>

6-16 sl trib bloomberg post on C tax, my comment:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58073071-82/tax-carbon-emissions-percent.html.csp>

Yes! And the way to minimize adverse impact on the poor and un- or under-employed is the citizensclimatelobby carbon fee and dividend proposals: no new government revenues; increased cost of carbon-based fuels and products - thus stimulating substitutes, new technologies, new businesses; improved air quality and thus a healthier population. Look it up. It's a win-win, except for middle class hummer and big pick-up owner-drivers.

And ask your kids about Princess Elsa - 'Let it Go!' Let fossil fuels go - keep them in the ground, safely sequestered.

6-15 SL Trib Randy Miller op-ed:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58028785-82/primary-utah-elections-voters.html.csp>

my comment:

Thanks to Randy Miller for this op-ed - and the national group Independent Voter. We do need a way for independents to have their voice heard in and during the primary process.

Nearly half of Utahans claim to be independent, many of those don't vote at all. There are many independent, unaffiliated candidates who get on the ballot via a signature petition. Ben Mates is such a candidate, running for Congress in District 3 - against Rep. Chaffetz and others. Bill Barron is running in District 2 against mr. right wing climate and science denier Chris Stewart. Bill ran as an independent for Senate 2 years ago - against the elder Mr. Hatch. I ran as an independent 2 years ago, in District 2. My experience is available as a short, free e-book called The RUN - you can find it on line.

Although the odds are stacked against independents or unaffiliated candidates winning, they play a key role in raising issues and positions often ignored by the two major party candidates, who generally pander to what they think the voters want to hear. Leaders need to lead, not pander. Most independents try to lead. They should be far better known and supported.

6-15 Des News op-ed appears, with edits:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605188/Advanced-energy-and-the-governors-summit.html>

Comment to religion/Clark letter:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58065217-82/science-clark-believe-needs.html.csp>

joeandrade • a few seconds ago

In my opinion, it's not belief in a spiritual force ('god') that's the problem. The problem is when that belief becomes religion - with 'sacred' texts, dogma, and collective non-rationality.

I also think that you either think critically, rationally, objectively - or you do not. You can't really say 'religion, on the one hand - and science, on the other.'

Read my little e-book, The CALL - there's a short discussion of the 'belief spectrum' in

it - it's free.

6-14 letters to Calgary Herald re US Oil Sands story

6-14 Cleveland Plain Dealer Hate Your Kids? renewable energy stds rollback

called - considering for print, online, or both

6-13 Std-Examiner letter submission - based on Blog re Stewart video.

<http://www.standard.net/Letters/2014/06/13/Utah-s-energy-summit-video-cute-but-misleading.html>

6-13 Des News story comment 2:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605098/Utah-economy-and-business-policy-get-high-marks.html>

Another positive report attesting to Governor Herbert's leadership, vision, pragmatism, and wisdom.

The report - and the Des News story - ignores that we are last in public education funding, and have fallen even further behind.

We have among the worst air quality in the nation along the Wasatch Front during winter months and greatly deteriorating air quality in the Uintah Basin due largely to the volatile hydrocarbons and related emissions from the thousands of wells there.

We are a growing market for Ob-Gyns to help with pollution-related pregnancy and new-born issues. We are a growing market for pulmonologists and respiratory therapists for the many Utahns impacted by our horrible Wasatch Front winter air. Health gets worse - and no Obamacare \$\$ to help. Brilliant!

We are the last in the 11 Western states in electrical energy derived from renewables, and we're #1 in the proportion derived from coal.

We're friendly to industry and business. We give them tax breaks to develop, we under regulate, we under police them, and we are in denial of all the problems they impose on our residents.

Utah - Life Polluted!

Utah - the greyest snow on Earth.

We're #1 for business and industry.

Congratulations!

6-13 Des news op ed comment 1:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605088/What-would-Galileo-do-The-new-EPA-guidelines-and-global-warming-deniers.html>

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

Thank you, Mary Barker, Barry Bickmore, and the many others doing what they can to bring some sense and action to the problem.

The good news is that most of the kids - the youth - understand. They may keep quiet, but they are tired of hearing ideologies, obsolete assumptions, and reality denial from their parents, many

of their teachers, many of their bishops and priests, and most of our state so-called leaders. The kids know better - they'll come through.

Keep up the good work.

6-12 sl trib submitted elsa oped
accepted!

6-12 Des News Comment to:

http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865604998/Utahs-Energy-Revolution.html?s_cid=comment-email-a

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

Dan - were you even at the Summit?

Did you hear the keynote address by Nordhaus? Did you watch Herbert's face as Nordhaus talked?

Most of the renewable work going on is in spite of the Governor, not because of him or his 'Energy' Office. He and the Office are focused on the filthiest fossil fuels. That includes gas via tracking - because there are very high methane leakages, making Utah gas really no better for the greenhouse problem than coal itself.

And talk with the Ob-Gyn's in the Uintah Basin - and the pulmonologists along the Wasatch Front.

Which sandpile has your head been in?

6-11 Des News Comment to Elias op-ed:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865604924/A-economic-benefits-of-a-fee-and-dividend-carbon-tax.html>

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

The keynote speaker at the Governor's Energy Development Summit last Wednesday, Ted Nordhaus, expressed a new reality - the current cost-benefit analysis already playing out in the energy markets. His Institute's recent report titled Coal Killer outlines that new reality, now well understood by those in the energy and resource markets. It's not Obama or the EPA that's killing coal - it's natural gas and the new renewables.

So the Governor should (in the words of Princess Elsa) 'let it go' - let coal go - and oil shale, too. These fuels are not in Utah's best interests. Carbon County - and all of Eastern Utah - need to move beyond coal, shale, and tar sands. And the Governor should be leading that transition, not denying it. He - and the Legislature - and local leaders - should be directing state resources into initiatives and investments in an economy and jobs which go beyond coal - and coal-fueled power plants.

6-5 Op-ed Princess Elsa submission

6-2 Deseret News Mission Pressure letter and Comment:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/user/comments/865604316/Mission-pressure.html>

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

A CALL should be personal, self-chosen, uplifting. There are many opportunities for service - to Church, community, society, and Planet. The importance of developing YOUR own foundation, and finding your own CALL - or Calls, is discussed in The CALL - a short, free, e-book '...for teens and others to take control of their life and work.' It's at 2andradedotorg .
Thanks for thinking on your own!

5-19 NY Times on WY anti-science standards:

http://trib.com/opinion/letters/andrade-fossil-fuels-are-doomed/article_a01848ef-d7f2-5075-8f31-44a2584e5d36.html

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it." - Upton Sinclair.

That's why Wyoming opposes the guidelines on teaching climate change.

It has little to do with facts, or critical thinking, or the future of the state's children. It has all to do with jobs and economy - right now. Jobs - and an economy - which will likely go bust within the decade.

Fossil fuels - all of them - are doomed, because mankind is largely doomed unless we rapidly slow down and stop fossil fuel burning. A robust, and rapidly increasing, carbon fee will be enacted soon - and then all those marginally economically viable fossil fuel 'resources' will be economically non-viable. And the 'Bust' will begin - again.

Your kids know that, your politicians know that - YOU know that. Admit it - and plan for a real future. Your kids deserve some reality, vision, and planning from their parents, teachers, and leaders.

And read Sinclair's The Jungle.

Thanks.

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5-1 sl trib story on bad air:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57885141-78/association-calif-cities-lake.html.csp>

comment:

Our very bad air is getting worse - with every tanker truck hauling marginal crude 'oil' from Eastern Utah to the Tesoro and other refineries in North Salt Lake: 250 trucks/day - each hauling over 8,000 gallons, and all being refined and processed locally.

Why not vent the refinery stacks into the lobby of the State Capitol? That might get some Legislature and Governor attention.

It has to stop. We don't 'need' that oil; we don't need refineries in the SL Valley; we don't 'need' - and certainly don't want - that kind of economic 'development'.

A simple fee on carbon would help - and greatly stimulate the economy at the same time.

and similar letter to Cheyenne Wyoming News

5-1: Des News story on tanker spill:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865602091/Health-department-concerned-about-culinary-water-after-semi-accident.html?pg=all>

my comment:

Sub-Headline: Would Pipeline be the Answer? NO.

and trucks aren't the answer either.

The answer is to STOP hauling low quality, marginal, viscous crude into the SL Valley.

As SLC's Jeff Niermeyer said '...look at refining it somewhere else.'

Expanding the local refineries (and the truck traffic) to handle that marginal crude just makes the Valley's bad air quality worse.

And a pipeline is not the answer, because it will just contribute to the growing bad air quality by encouraging the refineries to expand even more.

Stop the flow.

We don't need that 'oil'.

We just need some aware, enlightened, and gutsy leadership.

4-29? Sun Advocate letter:

http://www.sunad.com/index.php?tier=1&article_id=31085

4-28 Des News letter by on Carbon tax:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865601925/A-carbon-tax.html>

joeandrade

Salt Lake City, UT

Some may hope and wish otherwise - and lobby and work against carbon fees - but the fees will eventually come because they are really the only economically viable way to get our economy and culture to wean itself from its fossil fuel addiction.

There will likely be a significant carbon fee or tax imposed on all sources, leakages, and uses of

fossil carbon-based fuels and products. They will probably start off small and ramp up rapidly, with the goal of phasing out most fossil fuel use over the next 5 to 20 years - to avoid further cooking of the planet. Cutting our addiction to fossil fuels will also greatly improve air quality and health.

It's going to happen - the sooner the better.

4-25 sl trib story Sego Canyon Grand County <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57860281-78/county-grand-alternatives-lands.html.csp>

Letter to Editor submitted 4-27 and published 4-31-2014:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/57884337-82/fossil-carbon-canyon-county.html.csp>

The recent 'Sego Canyon Road Plan' story:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57860281-78/county-grand-alternatives-lands.html.csp>

leads to several questions and cautions.

Some background:

First, oil shale and tar sands are very dirty fuels which require considerable energy to extract and process. To date they have been economically marginal at best. And they have always been environmentally disastrous.

Second, due to the growing awareness and concern about fossil fuel-fueled climate change, there is likely to be a significant carbon fee or tax imposed on all sources, leakages, and uses of fossil carbon-based fuels and products. Such fees or taxes are likely to start off small and ramp up rapidly, with the goal of phasing out most fossil fuel use over the next 5 to 20 years - to avoid further cooking of the planet.

Some may hope and wish otherwise - and lobby and work against carbon fees - but the fees will eventually come. They are really the only economically viable way to get our economy and culture to wean itself from its fossil fuel addiction.

What does this have to do with Sego Canyon, Book Cliffs, Grand County, etc.?

What you invest today in trying to develop or foster fossil fuel development will bite you in the very near future. What is economically marginal - or barely viable - today will be uneconomic in just a few years. The investors are already leaving the fossil fuel development industry in droves. Your 'friction fee' and other expected income from such developments will be gone - and Grand County will be stuck with major bills, an economic 'bust', and a degraded landscape.

Be cautious, be careful, be very skeptical.

4-22 Des News story BLM airport:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865601479/BLM-approves-project-for-Emery-County-airstrip.html>

Comment:

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

So it is possible to work with the BLM? Allelulia!

So can we use the Governor's \$3M Federal Land fund for something useful - rather than paying

lawyers?

Maybe a few of those \$\$ could help with fixing the Emery County airport!

4-22 SL Trib Jones letter:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/57846021-82/climate-global-swindle-warming.html.csp>

Science is never fully 'settled'. We keep learning, studying, questioning. But if you choose to deny a generally accepted consensus, you need to have lots of very good counter evidence. The deniers have very little evidence.

If Mr. Jones wants to continue to argue against doing anything related to mitigating climate change, he may want to consider doing something about air pollution - almost all of which comes from burning and processing fossil fuels.

So even if you propose to let the planet warm, or insist on believing that it is not warming, you might want to try to do something about air pollution. Really the only way to do that is to switch to truly renewable energies - and use a lot less energy.

Fox News has fostered climate change denial for many years - but now they are funding and airing the new COSMOS series. Mr. Jones should watch and pay attention (Sundays, 8 pm). Enjoy - and learn.

4-22 SL Trib:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57836608-90/area-areas-growth-numbersusa.html.csp>

Comment:

The problem is GROWTH - more and more people expecting homes, services, jobs - and a culture and government dedicated to 'accommodating' that growth. As I noted in a DesNews op-ed on Feb. 23 (Mountain urbanism - optimism not enough), the real reality and problem is our rapidly increasing numbers, all wanting to live along the narrow strip known as the Wasatch Front:

We must confront the very hard realities upon us: Growth must greatly slow. We must move towards full sustainability — in energy, in material resources, in population. We must rethink and revise our very fundamental and ingrained religious and cultural ideologies and doctrines.

4-22 Des News:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865601517/Utah-among-states-with-greatest-urban-sprawl.html?pg=all>

The problem is GROWTH - more and more people expecting homes, services, jobs - and a culture and government dedicated to 'accommodating' that growth. The parallel story by Anderson on 'City Life' and high density housing, etc. helps - but only a little. As I noted in a DesNews op-ed on Feb. 23 (Mountain urbanism - optimism not enough), the real reality and problem is our rapidly increasing numbers, all wanting to live along the narrow strip known as the Wasatch Front:

We must confront the very hard realities upon us: Growth must greatly slow. We must move towards full sustainability — in energy, in material resources, in population. We

must rethink and revise our very fundamental and ingrained religious and cultural ideologies and doctrines.

4-21 Deseret News, comment to Sunday op-ed:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865601423/Anti-science-ruins-the-climate-debate.html?pg=1> , prompted by Folland:

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

Science is never fully 'settled'. We keep learning, studying, questioning. But if you choose to deny a generally accepted consensus, you need to have lots of very good counter evidence. The deniers have very little evidence. And even if Mr. Harris and his funders want to continue to argue against doing anything related to mitigating climate change, they may want to consider doing something about air pollution - almost all of which comes from burning and processing fossil fuels. So even if you propose to let the planet warm, perhaps because you live in the far North, you might want to try to do something about air pollution. Really the only way to do that is to switch to truly renewable energies - and use a lot less energy. Fox News has fostered climate change denial for many years - but now they are funding and airing the new COSMOS series. Mr. Harris should watch and pay attention.

4-2 Des News editorial pro-hatch anti-obamacare:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865599953/The-Patient-CARE-Act-offers-an-alternative-to-ACA.html>

Comment:

The ACA does need to be greatly improved and expanded. It was an imperfect compromise because of the obstructionism of insurance and pharmaceutical companies, the GOP, and other vested interests in a 'market-based' system - including Sen. Hatch and his donors and sponsors.

ACA is far better than what we had before; it can and will be improved and expanded - perhaps eventually becoming a full, national Medicare system - and hopefully NOT 'free' market' based or enhanced.

The latest Hatch Dispatch includes its usual arrogant statements, but this time it outright lies. Hatch tries to make 3 anti-ObamaCare points - using a very bold font:

Higher premiums and fewer choices? - perhaps yes for a very few - a lie when it comes to most people;

Seniors losing plans, benefits, doctors? - not the sources I read;

Job creators suffer uncertainty? - just the opposite! Job creators (I was one some years ago) can do their entrepreneurial magic without worrying about their employees' health care - they can just enroll in ObamaCare.

So Hatch's facts are distorted, at best, and his arrogance marches on unabated! The Deseret News should be as critical of Hatch as it is of Obama.

4-2 Amy O' Des News Ozone:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865599980/High-winter-ozone-hit-Uintah-Basin-in-2013.html>

Comment:

Yes, studies are useful, but the problem is all the drilling and production.

Slow it all down. Let the wells run out. Stop drilling. Keep the fossil fuels in the ground - safely sequestered.

We already know climate change and chaos is largely out of control - due to CO2 production and methane release.

Enact a fat tax on all carbon sources and fuels, increase it every year. That by itself will stimulate the economy and get rid of fossil fuels. Just do it.

4-2 Tribune Prettyman story on Uinta ozone studies:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57759885-90/ozone-basin-winter-gas.html.csp>

Comment:

Yes, studies are useful, but the problem is all the drilling and production.

Slow it all down. Let the wells run out. Stop drilling. Keep the fossil fuels in the ground - safely sequestered.

We already know climate change and chaos is largely out of control - due to CO2 production and methane release. Today's Editorial and letters make that clear.

Enact a fat tax on all carbon sources and fuels, increase it every year. That by itself will stimulate the economy and get rid of fossil fuels. Just do it.

Folland solar letter:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/57752951-82/solar-percent-energy-future.html.csp>

Comment:

Yes, renewables are the future - and fossil fuels need to be the past. Let's enact a fat fee on carbon sources and fuels - across the board - and raise it every year. That would greatly stimulate the economy, slow down fossil fuel production and use, and begin to address climate change and weather chaos. We're in the 21st Century - the 19th is long gone. Maybe we need to unelect the dinosaurs now in leadership positions.

3-30 tribune carribaburu on Tinker 1st amendment:

Comment:

Yes, Tinker's story and talk is very impressive. I was there. Thanks for the story. On the same page of today's Trib is the lead story on the LDS women, girls gather...ing. I hope someone there encouraged their first amendment rights - encouraging them to speak up rather than just 'keep covenants'.

Stack story on LDS women, girls:

Comment:

On the same page of today's Trib is a story titled 'Free speech advocate: Exercise your rights' - a report on Mary Beth Tinker's talk at the local Society of Professional Journalists meeting the day before. Tinker encouraged all youth - men and women - and their adult teachers, parents, etc., to exercise their first amendment rights. To speak out against injustice. To speak up. I hope some of this spirit was somehow included in the covenant-focused LDS Women and Girls meeting.

3-26 Des news Lisa Riley Roche story:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865599493/Envision-Utah-outlines-effort-to-prep-for-growth.html>

Comment:

The headline should have been: Fantasyland Plans for Major Growth.

All the growth planning people do great work; Envision Utah is to be commended, BUT: no one is questioning the growth. If we build it, they'll come. And no matter how good the gasoline is, how many electric cars we have, how strict the air pollution regulations, how convenient the mass transit - a doubling of the population along the Wasatch Front will be intolerable. Growth is not always good, especially here; and growth is not inevitable.

In some respects Envision Utah and the recent Mountain Urbanism, Mountain Modernism Mayor's Conference do a disservice to reality: by ignoring the realities of growth, they actually endorse and encourage it! See: the Mountain Urbanism op-ed of Feb. 23.

Gov Herbert, his Clean Air Action Team, Envision Utah, the mayors, etc. must question and challenge the growth-based ideology which plagues our 'planning'. Until then all such planning efforts are actually counter-productive.

Thanks for quoting Michelle Hoffman in the story - she understands.

Romboy Jewell story:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865599461/Jewell-supports-paying-back-Utah-states-that-reopened-national-parks.html>

Comment:

The headline said Jewell supports paying back...I don't think so. She responded to Rep. Stewart that she wouldn't resist. That's not supporting.

How do Hatch, Lee, Stewart, Herbert, and most of our other elected politicians have the gall to want pay back when nearly all were supportive of and instrumental in the government shutdown? That's the height of hypocrisy and double-dealing. They all knew the shutdown meant National Park closure. They all knew the economic impact to the state - and yet they nearly all endorsed and supported the budgetary and political chaos.

No - no payback for Utah. That would just encourage them all to continue their destructive, extortion-based politics and ideologies. They all need to be unelected. They need to be replaced by candidates who are there to serve the people and the Nation - and not consumed by paranoia and 19th century ideologies.

3-25:

Deseret News Hollenhorst on IPP to gas:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865599408/Natural-gas-may-be-the-future-at-Utahs-giant-coal-plant.html>

comment:

Coal is a very dirty fuel. Period. The sooner we transform Utah's energy economy away from coal - and then later away from all fossil fuels - the better. Our leaders should be out in front, advocating and facilitating the transformation.

California - and Utah - don't want coal-generated electricity; they don't even want natural gas - generated electricity. We all want truly renewably-generated electricity. So let's get on with it.

Elect officials who understand this and have the brains and guts to help their communities transform. Where are the state and county incentives and initiatives to wean us out of a coal-based economy?

Utah's current elected officials are still wistfully gazing at the 19th century - rather than accepting they are now in the 21st. If they can't adapt, unelect them - and elect those who can.

Des News Romboy Massey war on coal:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865599384/Murray-Energy-sues-EPA-over-war-on-coal.html>

online comment:

There's no 'war on coal' - coal is a very dirty fuel. Period. Nearly the entire Periodic Table is in coal - and then in coal ash (the part that doesn't go up the stacks).

Want cadmium, mercury, arsenic, lead, ...? It's all there, as well as the particulates exacerbating our many respiratory problems.

Thank God for California and the EPA - because they actually care about our health. Massey certainly doesn't.

Why doesn't Massey use the \$\$ he'll spend on this PR-generating lawsuit to help transform the communities his miners and drivers live in - to help those communities transform their economy away from coal, perhaps to renewable energy technologies?

Coal fueled the 18th and 19th C (as well as the 20th). Those centuries are long over. We are now in the 21st C. Our leaders and business people should wake up to that fact.

media notes, log, and followup

2-3-2014

letter to Wall St Journal on Keystone Excuses

letter to NY Times Fat Cats Maximum Wage Progressive Tax

2-11-2014

letter to LV Review-Journal on Pipeline Nightmare;

email followup to sebelius on 2-14

comment to SL Trib article on Mia Love: Plutocracy

2-12-2014

letter to SL Trib on Walsh op-ed

2-13-2014

Comment to Des News on Liljenquist op-ed on Grid Security...

2-14-2014

op-ed to Des News on Mountain Urbanism, ...

2-18-2014

House Nat Res Comm hearing, comments on HB 0229:

my testimony:

http://utahlegislature.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=16681&meta_id=494069

about 21 minutes in.

from Maffly: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57562425-90/carbon-atmosphere-dioxide-anderson.html.csp>

video of anderson:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57562425-90/anderson-andrade-atmosphere-carbon.html.csp>

Comment to SL Trib on Arctic and Climate Change study story

2-19-2014:

Des News Stewart talk:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865596758/Rep-Chris-Stewart-talks-to-Utah-lawmakers-about-federalism.html> ; added on line comment.

2-20

Des News Evenson on large families good:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865596899/Large-families-are-not-a-burden-on-Utah-taxpayers.html> on line comment

2-23 Des News Mtn Urbanism op-ed appears:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865597180/Mountain-urbanism-mountain-modernism.html?pg=all>

2-26 Des News comment to Stratton op-ed:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865597409/Honor-the-promise-to-transfer-public-lands.html?pg=all>

joeandrade

Salt Lake City, UT

No, thanks.

Utah legislators want these lands primarily for their (legislators') own growth and development.

Let's obtain even greater benefits from Federal lands by advocating for MORE National Parks and Monuments:

a Book Cliffs National Monument with Green River as the gateway city;
a San Rafael Swell National Monument - perhaps Hanksville as gateway city.

Advocate for the Greater Canyonlands National Monument, benefitting Monticello and Bluff.

Rural Utah - and all of Utah - benefits from the Federal land presence - don't minimize or destroy that presence.

People enjoy and visit grandeur - not drilling rigs or subdivisions.

2-26 Blog post and tweet re des news mtn urbanism growth op-ed.

2-26 Comment to Elder Oaks story:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865597383/At-BYU-Idaho-Elder-Oaks-calls-LDS-members-believers-everywhere-to-action-as-witnesses-of-God.html>

'Those who have used human reasoning ... have diminished themselves and cheapened civilization...'

Really? Do we have a God-given brain with which to think and reason?
Do we have free will? Does that cheapen and diminish us?
Whatever happened to 'agency'?

2-27 Comment on Maffly story - same as 2-26 Des News op-ed Comment:
<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57603105-90/2014-bills-counties-federal.html.csp>

3-1 sl trib brain religion MRI my comment:
<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57500642-78/brain-religion-religious-experience.html.csp>

joeandrade • a few seconds ago

Some want to believe, others want to question. On one end of the Belief 'Spectrum' are strong believers and ideologs - on the other end are skeptics, questioners. Most of us are somewhere in the middle. Those who believe in doctrines, traditional religions, sacred texts, etc. are on one end of the Belief Spectrum; scientists and critical thinkers tend towards the other end.

We use the term 'hard-wired' for those ideologs who cannot process facts and perspectives which lead to a challenge to their ingrained ideologies. We say that to really confront your hard-core beliefs and ideologies, you have to at least partially 're-wire' your brain - and that is very difficult to do for most people.

A popular version of such concepts is Chris Mooney's book The Republican Brain. Stephen Colbert's quote: 'Reality has a well known liberal bias' is also relevant.

Perhaps MRI studies can shed some light on these attributes. I look forward to the study's results.

3-3-2014
blog re Herbert in ny times 3-3-2014

comment to Bennett what's the diff? :
<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865597779/Keystone-What-difference-does-it-make.html?pg=all>

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

It is about 'symbolism' - it is about principles - it is about our collective future - it is about stewardship of the planet.

Our addiction to fossil fuels has already resulted in major man-made changes to this planet, resulting in an alteration of the climate itself. So much so that we now call the age we are in the Anthropocene - the first time in geologic time that the planet has been and continues to be changed by Mankind.

Sen Bennett's 'what difference does 1% make' could easily apply to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and other issues and behavior risky to both individuals and society.

It makes a great deal of difference. It's time to stop the flow through the oil needle.

3-4-2014 SL Trib:
<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57614929-78/national-parks-park-utah.html.csp>

Comment:

[joeandrade](#) • [3 hours ago](#)

Yes!, so let's obtain even greater benefits from Federal lands by advocating for MORE National Parks and Monuments:

a Book Cliffs National Monument with Green River as the gateway city;

a San Rafael Swell National Monument - perhaps Hanksville as gateway city.

Advocate for the Greater Canyonlands National Monument, benefitting Monticello and Bluff.

Rural Utah - and all of Utah - benefits from the Federal land presence - don't minimize or destroy that presence. Let's spend some of Rep. Ivory's and the Governor's Federal Land litigation fund for advocating more Parks and Monuments.

People enjoy and visit grandeur - not drilling rigs or subdivisions.

3-5-2014

SL Trib Glaser op-ed comment:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/57631538-82/climate-tax-carbon-global.html.csp>

comment and then letter to Price SunAdvocate with slight revisions:

[joeandrade](#) • [20 minutes ago](#)

Thanks for referring to 'his coal-mining constituents' in the Price area. Elected officials from coal-mining regions need to be working to facilitate their region's transition from a coal-dominated, extractive economy towards a sustainable economy. Rather than deny CO2 problems, perhaps to 'protect' coal, Anderson and others should realize that 'Carbon' County is a very solar-intensive county and could be participating in the solar energy transition now underway in most areas, although Utah lags far behind much of the rest of the country.

Perhaps Price voters should be electing people with the vision and skills to facilitate a modern economy, rather than trying to protect a dying one based on 19th century economic assumptions.

3-5 sltrib on prison by Gehrke:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57632939-90/prison-state-current-location.html.csp>

comment:

joeandrade • a few seconds ago

May I suggest that if the prison is moved, the existing land be utilized for a public, community park, green space, and perhaps wind energy 'farm', and that all existing and future legislators be excluded from dealing with the contracts or other development activities associated with such a transformation.

We have already established that we cannot continue to develop this valley, nor significantly increase its population, without a significant continued decrease in the quality of life for all residents.

If there are good reasons to move it, fine - but do not permit the land to be 'developed'. Clear?

3-5 Des News Adams Sen. op-ed:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865597950/All-Utahns-can-help-clean-up-our-air.html>

my comment and email to adams:

joeandrade
Salt Lake City, UT

Here's a better idea:

The Citizens Climate Lobby advocates legislation for a national carbon fee and dividend (revenue neutral) to help encourage the metamorphosis of our economy - from its heavy dependence on air quality deteriorating fossil fuels to much cleaner energy sources.

Utah should 'jump the gun' and impose its own state carbon fee, directing some or most of those revenues to the causes and activities suggested by Sen. Adams.

Such action would reinforce the Legislature's interest in real Federalism, substantiate Utah's leadership in solving its own problems, document our creativity and innovation, and contribute to clean air and the clean energy economy.

Would the Senator draft and submit such legislation?
Thanks!

3-7 Des News Jewell story:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865598051/Secretary-of-the-Interior-Sally-Jewell-visits-WSU.html>

my comment:

Keynote Speaker C. Arden Pope presented a comprehensive review of the health effects of particulate air pollutants, including his own studies beginning with Utah County's Geneva Steel 'experiments'. He concluded with an 'exposure' of 'secret science' - and his response to the subpoenas of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. It was fascinating (and exasperating) to learn that the Committee's Chair and several members, including our own Rep. Chris Stewart, charged the EPA with withholding 'secret science' from the public - hence the subpoenas. That secret science was 'exposed' by Dr. Pope for all to see - via the many publications in the open, publicly accessible, peer-reviewed scientific literature. How can we continue to elect self-delusional, anti-science ideologs like Chris Stewart? - that's my question, not Pope's.

The five topical tracks were useful although there was much fantasy and wishful thinking in our 'planning' for a doubling of Wasatch Front populations in the next 20 or so years. If that happens, most of us will require serious respiratory therapy - or last rites.

It was a very good conference. Thanks WSU!

3-7 Standard Examiner op-ed letter/submission:

<http://www.standard.net/stories/2014/03/06/weber-state-jewell-notes-epic-western-drought>

Thanks WSU, Olene Walker, Ogden

Thanks for the Intermountain Sustainability Conference Mar. 6 at WSU.

Keynote Speaker C. Arden Pope presented a comprehensive review of the health effects of particulate air pollutants, including his own studies beginning with Utah County's Geneva Steel 'experiments'. He concluded with an 'exposure' of 'secret science' - and his response to the subpoenas of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. It was fascinating (and exasperating) to learn that the Committee's Chair and several members, including our own Rep. Chris Stewart, charged the EPA with withholding 'secret science' from the public - hence the subpoenas. That secret science was 'exposed' by Dr. Pope for all to see - via the many publications in the open, publicly

accessible, peer-reviewed scientific literature. How can we continue to elect self-delusional, anti-science ideologs like Chris Stewart? - that's my question, not Pope's.

Thanks to former Governor Olene Walker, the Summit's second keynote was by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.

Secretary Jewell addressed climate disruption, including the growing problem with methane leaks and emissions. In response to an audience question, she suggested that Utah join the 30 plus other states who have instituted a renewable energy mandate. In her talk she noted Gov. Herbert's suggestion to voluntarily move towards renewables. A real mandate, she explained, would provide the assurance and expectation that the state is 'serious', providing confidence for investors and the private sector to move forward in developing a new renewable energy economy in Utah. She encouraged people to 'be involved', ask questions, speak out.

The five topical tracks were interesting and useful although there was much fantasy and wishful thinking in our 'planning' for a doubling (or more) of Wasatch Front populations in the next 20 or so years. If that happens, most of us will require serious respiratory therapy - or last rites.

It was a very good conference. Thanks WSU!

3-10-2014:

Sun Advocate - Price letter:

http://www.sunad.com/index.php?tier=1&article_id=30633

comment to Pyle ignorance piece of 3-9-2014:

<http://www.sltrib.com/pages/comments?cid=57643796>

joeandrade • a few seconds ago

Thanks - and for the link to the full Jefferson quote:

“Ignorance is preferable to error, and he is less remote from the truth who believes nothing than he who believes what is wrong.”

If one is ignorant of a subject, but rational and open-minded, he/she can take in information and even opinion and often come to a rational perspective. But if he starts out as a knowing, believing ideolog, then it is much more difficult.

Perhaps we could add this to Rep. Ivory's Federalism education curriculum?

Thanks for all you write.

3-10-2014 SL Trib letter Noel misinformed:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/57647210-82/misinformed-noel-voter-mike.html.csp>

3-12-2014 real women run story:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57666494-90/women-training-office-run.html.csp>

Comment:

Terrific. We need many more women in politics, in the Legislature, and in higher elected offices. Women tend to be less ideological, less confrontational, and more open-minded - and certainly more compassionate - than most men.

Please RUN - and win.

My own one year experiment in democracy, running for US Congress in UT District 2 as an independent, The RUN, has some advice and perspectives for candidates. It's available to all for free at www.dot2andradedotorg.

Good luck.

3-14-2014: Letter to The Spectrum:

Please consider this letter for publication in The Spectrum:

Senator Hatch's latest e-Dispatch argues that Utah should be reimbursed for the costs of keeping Federal lands open during the Utah delegation-endorsed government shutdown. No, thanks.

As the senior member of the Utah delegation, who did little or nothing to avoid the shut down, it is arrogant at best for Hatch to expect the state to be reimbursed for the damage he helped cause.

What we should do is perhaps garnish the Senator's Federal pay - and indeed that of the entire delegation - to help compensate the state for their reckless, wasteful, and intolerable actions.

3-16: SL Tribune Pyle:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/57678618-82/parents-child-rights-abuse.html.csp>

Comment -

Although each brain and mind is unique, its development is largely dependent on its environment and sensory inputs. Parents who constrain and inhibit individual development by overly curtailing their children's experiences, experiments, and exposures are, in my opinion, practicing child abuse.

'Hard-wiring' occurs very early - and then becomes very difficult to change or accommodate in response to new experiences, opportunities, and perspectives.

Children need to become their own individuals - and not become simply clones of their parents, parental prejudices, or convenient ideologies.

Thanks for addressing the subject.

3-16 sl trib ron molen letter:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/57672262-82/real-mormons-believe-democrats.html.csp>

joeandrade • a few seconds ago

Yes!

This reminds me of Steve Olsen, a Demo who ran for Congress against Bishop many years ago. He wrote a piece:

Why most Utahns are Democrats and just don't know it yet; reprinted as Why you may be a Liberal (and why that's OK).

And - if they don't want to call themselves Democrats, independent or unaffiliated may be more palatable.

3-19-2014 deseret news:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865598661/Millennials-plan-to-trade-kids-for-careers-2-but-it-doesnt-have-to-be-that-way.html>

Comment;

Continued population increase is a serious problem for the planet and for Utah's Wasatch Front. Those that choose to have less or even no children should not be shunned or challenged for their decisions and behavior.

The Utah Population and Environment Coalition's -- utahpopdotorg - recent radio ads called It's OK to Plan drew considerable attention and interest from the local population.

The country's very poor regulations and expectations in regard to maternal and paternal job and social benefits is another factor.

Our economy and society are in a great transition and even transformation. The old assumptions and expectations are changing - perhaps for the better.

3-21-2014 submitted online letter to examiner.net:

<http://www.standard.net/stories/2014/03/24/hatch-dispatch-arrogant-distorts-facts>

Another No-Reply e-mail from Senator Hatch today - the Hatch Dispatch. It usually contains arrogant statements, but this time it outright lies.

He tries to make 3 anti-ObamaCare bold font points:

Higher premiums and fewer choices? - perhaps yes for a very few - a lie when it comes to most people;

Seniors losing plans, benefits, doctors? - not the sources I read;

Job creators suffer uncertainty? - just the opposite! Job creators (I was one some years ago) can do their entrepreneurial magic without worrying about their employees' health care - they can just enroll in ObamaCare. In fact a current study says it's likely that all employers will eventually opt out of providing health care - they will instead pay in to ObamaCare due to less bureaucracy, greater certainty, and the growing acceptance and appreciation of ObamaCare.

So Hatch's facts are distorted, at best, and his arrogance marches on unabated!

And more elections this November!

Maffly wilderness-Bishop story:

<http://m.sltrib.com/sltrib/mobile3/57707543-219/wilderness-bills-conservation-lands.html.csp>

Comment:

Bishop would be even worse than he already is if he were appointed Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. The best way to prevent his Chairmanship is to unelect him this November. Perhaps the 8000 new voters in his district (the new voters from the 2014 high school graduating classes) could get concerned and help elect someone whose feet and head are firmly in the 21st Century, rather than Bishop whose feet and brain are mired in the 19th. 19th C economic, environmental, and energy assumptions

are simply irrelevant and indeed very damaging in our current 21st Century. Just unelect him, please!

3-24-2014

sl trib letter gop mental illness:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/57694686-82/percent-illness-mental-serious.html.csp>

Comment:

joeandrade • a few seconds ago

The subject and correlation is also covered in Mooney's recent book, The Republican Brain. See also the UU Religious Brain Project. My own take is that there is a believer - questioner spectrum. Whether you are a believer or a questioner/thinker is based largely on genetics and environment. There's more on this in The CALL at 2andradedotorg.

Deseret News on cold fusion:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865599345/25-years-ago-a-dream-caught-fire-2-and-died.html>

Comment:

Cold fusion may not exist, but practical 'warm' fusion certainly does. It is the basis of the solar energy revolution that will eventually transform our economy and society. Traditional hot fusion is alive and well - a safe 100 million miles away - bathing Planet Earth with safe and secure solar radiation. Some of us are harnessing and using it. Most, including most political, economic, and business leaders, continue to deny its practicality and thwart its expansion, thus subjecting us to the air pollution and planetary instability resulting from the continued burning of fossil fuels.

Our fossil fuel - based and growth dependent economy are on the way out. Let's just hope it doesn't take too long for the transformation. Spread the word.