As an ardent admirer of the G. Blaine Society, I feel called upon to supplement my testimony before city council on September 17, 2019.

My presentation then on that occasion put to rest the nonsense that “dune grading” would somehow enhance safety along the “singing sands.” In the 27 years as a lifeguard on our beach, I never had an emergency involving the sand dunes. I also addressed the proponents’ special altruism concerning dune grading and handicapped access. For decades, there have been programs, regulations, and equipment that ensure handicapped citizens enjoy Oregon’s beaches. Again, as a lifeguard on our beach, I witnessed the benefits of these measures— all without dune grading.

But, we have other fish to fry—or maybe, some logging to be done… Consider this: Bordering my property is a massive spruce tree, hundreds of years old and well over a hundred feet in height. It is magnificent. It also drips sap on my 2003 Toyota Camry. Gasp! unsightly splatters besiege my car... the view is ruined. And golly! that massive spruce has devalued the resale price of my vehicular investment. I guess I’m justified (using the dune-o-phobes’ logic) in chopping down this offending piece of wood. Or, maybe I should let that spruce giant continue to stand. In much the same way those who are concerned about analogous views might do well to get up off their rusty-butties, get out into nature and onto the dunes. Ah, nature... whadda concept.

But wait! There’s more!

And it’s not just toy store Tonka Toy trucks—no, indeed. Yes, let’s all mellow out in “khan’nm commune with nature and the wonders of beach lifestyle. Ummm... Most of us who settled here did not come to live in a construction zone. I was truly taken aback by the presentation that indicated just how much heavy equipment, bulldozers, and mega dump trucks would be roaring around on our beach. Again, as a lifeguard, I’ve seen the disruption that occurs when the sand is shuffled around by the grading process—just south of the Gower Street on-ramp. Talk about safety issues!

In short, just let the dunes alone.

Sincerely,

John Rippey

10-1-19