

Gerry Thompson

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Bob Oliver

### Festival of Enlightenment

This morning Pat Amedeo and I met with Bob Stacey, representing Henry Richmond of 1000 Friends. In the attached material, Richmond asks the Governor to inject himself into the controversy surrounding the festival scheduled to be held in July.

Richmond and Stacey first argue that the mass gathering permit issued by Wasco County is invalid, because the county did not take into consideration whether a mass gathering is compatible with goals for exclusive farm use lands.

First, they ask that the Governor instruct Bill Young to rescind a temporary permit he already has granted, and to hold a hearing, with Kristine Gebbie, to determine whether water and sewage facilities comply with the goals. Pat Amedeo and I will meet with Jim Ross to explore these matters further, since they involve complex issues of land use planning law.

Second, Richmond urges the Governor to instruct the Attorney General to appeal issuance of the mass gathering permit itself by Wasco County. Under ORS 433.750, it appears anybody in the world can appeal issuance of such a permit to the circuit court for the appropriate county. It is my strong recommendation that the Governor not do this. Although legally he could do so under the statute, I believe any such appeal ought to be initiated by a party directly affected at the local level.

Pat and I discovered that Richmond and Stacey may not have considered all the potential ramifications from the course of action they are following. Is the Happy Canyon event an outdoor mass gathering -- and, if so, on what class of zoned land might it be held? What about the "Renaissance Fair" held each summer near Veneta?

Issues which might arise out of these other gatherings could be equally complex. I would not want to see the Governor lock himself into a position on the Festival of Enlightenment which might put him at odds with other, recognized mass gatherings. The same folks who would applaud him for jumping into the controversy at hand would be furious at him if it set a precedent that called the Happy Canyon Festival into question.