



The Furrow

Newsletter of Oregon Rural Action

Sowing Seeds of Change

April 2006

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Calendar

Baker County Grassroots Alliance will meet Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00 PM at Mad Matildas. We will be discussing the OTEC campaign and the Local Food Directory

The **Blue Mountain Chapter** will meet again in May -- watch for details.

The **Snake River Chapter's** next meeting is Thursday, April 20th at the Malheur County Library. We will be planning the pesticide workshop and getting updates on language access issues.

Celebrating a Successful OTEC Campaign with Your Help!

Oregon Trail Electric Co-op (OTEC) ballots arrived earlier this week, and we hope you voted for Randy Joseph, the Oregon Rural Action member and renewable energy advocate whose campaign we are supporting. Dozens of members have spent months collecting petition signatures for and telling their friends about Randy's campaign. **Now we need your help!** Please consider taking one or more of the following steps described in the box to the right to support small-scale renewable energy generation in northeast Oregon.

Oregon Rural Action continues to gain influence and publicity for its increasingly effective and lasting work in building thriving local economies and communities. With your help, we can elect Randy Joseph to the OTEC board. Let us know how you'd like to support this campaign today!

We have much to celebrate through our energy campaign in recent months. Two members were instrumental in initiating the Union County Commissioners' establishment of the Union County Renewable Energy

Committee in December 2005. Six members have since have been appointed to this public committee out of its seven available seats; and board member Chuck Koch has been appointed chair of this committee. The committee is charged with making recommendations to the county commissioners on the economic development potential of small- and community-scale renewable energy generation projects, and meets monthly.

Since January, the Blue Mountain Chapter and Baker County Grassroots Alliance have collaborated in collecting a total of 1,241 signatures for three petitions to place candidates and members Randy Joseph and Norm Cimon and one bylaw amendment on the OTEC ballot. Thirty members were involved in this process, during which dozens of green power flyers and Oregon Rural Action brochures were also distributed. Only Randy was able to secure a place on the ballot through this effort, as the cooperative's complicated bylaws deemed only 60% of collected signatures to be valid. To support Randy's campaign, members have made generous contributions that have enabled us to share Randy's green power message in newspaper and radio ads in Union, Baker, and Grant counties. Staff and members organized a candidate forum in Baker and Union counties, each drawing 30 attendees and a local newspaper reporter. At least six letters to the editor have been printed in 2 newspapers, and another 3-5 are expected to be printed in 4 newspapers in the next week.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our work. Let's celebrate the success of our latest efforts to support the development of renewable energy in northeast Oregon!

Help Elect Randy Joseph!

Here's How:

- 1. Vote JOSEPH for OTEC! Ballots arrived this week.**
- 2. Make a donation to Randy's campaign.** Just \$10 purchases a 30-second radio spot with a green power message. Let Colin know as soon as possible if you'd like to make a pledge so we can add your support to our campaign's growing public voice. Checks can be made out to "Oregon Rural Action" and mailed to PO Box 1231, La Grande, OR 97850.
- 3. Forward Randy's campaign email, pass out flyers, or phone bank.** Contact Colin at colin@oraction.org or 975-2411 for details.
- 4. Write a letter to the editor.** We can help you brainstorm the angle you'd like to take or fact check before you send it in.

