

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP**

Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk
This form is a public record

MEETING DATE: May 16, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: _____

FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____

NAME: John and Pat Schwiebert

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 2116 NE 18th Ave

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97212

PHONE: 503 281-3697

EMAIL: john@tearsoup.com
pat@tearsoup.com

IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD IN PERSON:

1. Complete this form and submit to the Board Clerk.
2. Presenters are called to testify in the order their form is received. The Presiding Officer may rearrange testimony or may ask Invited Guests or Elected Officials to speak first.
3. Public testimony is limited to **3 minutes or less** per person unless otherwise directed by the Presiding Officer.
4. Written materials may be submitted to the Board Clerk for distribution to the Board and entry in the official record. Please provide 7 copies.
5. All meetings are audio and video recorded.
6. When your name is called, come forward & be seated at the presenter's table; state your name for the record and speak clearly into the microphone.
7. A buzzer will signify the end of your allotted time.
8. The Presiding Officer has authority to keep order and may impose reasonable restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who creates a disturbance may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so becomes a trespasser.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN INSTEAD OF ORAL COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

1. Complete this form and submit it along with your written testimony to the Board Clerk at the meeting, or by e-mail at: lynda.grow@multco.us
2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.

April 25, 2015

TO THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Greetings:

NOTICE TO CUSTOMER

AS A CONDITION TO THIS INSTITUTION'S ISSUANCE OF THIS CHECK, PURCHASER AGREES TO PROVIDE AN INDEMNITY BOND PRIOR TO THE REFUND OR REPLACEMENT OF THIS CHECK IN THE EVENT IT IS LOST, MISPLACED OR STOLEN.

CASHIER'S CHECK

27157

Date 05/01/13

24-665/1230

Remitter: *JOHN AND PAT SCHWIEBERT*

Pay to the Order of

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

\$ 3,000.00 ***

THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 US Dollars

dollars



Albina Community Bank
2002 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97212

⑈027157⑈ ⑈123006651⑈ 001422936⑈

the wealthiest 1%.

This, in our opinion, is the least that we can, and must, do!

The U.S. Declaration of Independence affirms that "when a long train of abuses and usurpations . . . evinces a design to reduce [the people] under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." Then the signers of the declaration list 26 specific abuses and usurpations as reasons for throwing off British rule.

Until we are able to build sufficient, non-violent, people power to throw off the rule of the current corporate-controlled US government and its many present abuses and usurpations (see attached list), we can at least refuse to contribute tax revenue to support these abuses.

(Post)

Respectfully,
Pat Schwiebert
Pat Schwiebert
pat@tearsoup.com

Respectfully,
John J. Schwiebert
John T. Schwiebert
john@tearsoup.com

April 25, 2015

TO THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Greetings:

Again we appear before you, as we have for the past several years, to present Multnomah County with a cash contribution. This year's check in the amount of \$3,000 is slightly more than our federal income tax obligation for 2012, which, however, we have refused to pay to the federal government, in an act of conscientious civil disobedience.

This action on our part is consistent with our deep commitment to the Kingdom of God, whose name is Love. We have sought to keep this commitment to Love for neighbors and enemies for the past 35 years. And loving others cannot, by any stretch of morality or logic, include killing them or paying for others, including our government, to kill them.

We do not take this commitment lightly; hence this need to redirect the amount the IRS says we owe, to this local government body, where it is more likely to be used to "promote the general welfare," especially of the poor and marginalized, immigrants, persons without access to affordable health care and others who are among 99% of the population that is controlled and manipulated by the wealthiest 1%.

This, in our opinion, is the least that we can, and must, do!

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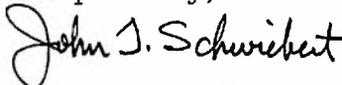
Until we are able to build sufficient, non-violent, people power to throw off the rule of the current corporate-controlled US government and its many present abuses and usurpations (see attached list), we can at least refuse to contribute tax revenue to support these abuses.

Respectfully,



Pat Schwiebert
pat@tearsoup.com

Respectfully,



John T. Schwiebert
john@tearsoup.com

Abuses and Usurpations-2013

Following is a list of current atrocities for which the current, corporate-controlled U.S. government is responsible. It corresponds to the list of 26 specific “abuses and usurpations” listed in the U.S. Declaration of Independence as reasons for throwing off the despotism* of the British Empire and creating a new government of, by and for the people.

- The current U.S. government, through its legislative, executive and judicial branches has used military force not primarily for the defense and security of the American people, but as an instrument for dominating the politics of foreign countries, mostly for the financial benefit of private U.S. corporations.
- It spends approximately half of the nation’s tax revenue to maintain a huge military establishment, including over 1,000 military installations around the world, while neglecting to spend adequate amounts of money for essential services and to repair or replace decaying public facilities in the homeland for the benefit of all the people.
- It has over-reached its obligation “to provide for the common defense”, by engaging in unwarranted invasions of, and preemptive wars against, other nations, in flagrant violations of international treaties and commonly understood moral imperatives.
- The current U.S. government, through its legislative, executive and judicial branches, has fostered governance of, by and for large, private corporations, in place of governance of, by and for the people.
- It has granted to these corporations the same rights as people, but with none of the corresponding culpability or responsibility.
- It has created and maintained a self-perpetuating system of taxation which puts a heavier burden on low and moderate income working people while rewarding wealthy individuals and corporations with tax loop holes and lower tax rates on capital gains.
- It has allowed the election of public office holders to be determined by the influence of money through paid, political advertising and private contributions to candidates and political parties rather than by the unconstrained evaluation of fitness for office by the voters themselves.
- It has allowed and even encouraged these same holders of public office to represent the narrow interests of the wealthiest few, including corporations that pay little or no tax (representation without taxation), rather than the interests of the majority of the people who elected them.
- It has failed to regulate commerce in ways that would provide for the safety and security of the general public; it has in fact deregulated activities that were once regulated for the common good, such as banking, broadcast communications, air travel, and other commercial enterprises; and it has approved special legislation that exempts certain industries from being sued for damages caused by their activities or products.

- It has entered into so called “free trade agreements” with other countries, agreements designed to enrich multi-national corporations while causing the elimination of sustainable wage employment for millions of working people at home and abroad.
- It has failed to join with the majority of the nations of the world in treaties that seek to address the problems of global warming and the need to reduce the carbon emissions that are poisoning us all.
- It has enriched, or intends to enrich, private corporations at public expense by privatizing public institutions, agencies, and activities such as prisons, public education, military operations, and (unless prevented from doing so) postal service and social security..
- It has permitted private individuals and corporations to avoid the payment of taxes by hiding an estimated \$32 trillion of their income in private, secret, off-shore bank accounts.
- It has used the threat of “terrorism” as an excuse for disregarding human rights that are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, including the indefinite detention of US citizens and other persons suspected of crimes, without trial.
- It has committed serious violations of human rights by detaining, interrogating, torturing and even killing persons merely suspected of crimes or the intent to commit crimes, without due process of law.
- It has secretly, and sometimes openly, assassinated persons it regarded as enemies or perpetrators of crimes against the United States instead of arresting those persons and prosecuting them using due process of law.
- It has justified the inadvertent killing of innocent civilians overseas, using land mines, chemical weapons and/or predator drones, by calling such killing “collateral damage.”
- It has failed to “promote the general welfare” by assuring that every American man, woman and child has equal access to prompt, quality health care.
- It has allowed the nation’s food supply to be poisoned through negligence, and by undermining the farming system through monopolization.
- It has failed to honor and fairly enforce the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, to defend the rights of employees to bargain collectively and effectively for better pay and working conditions.

*The term *despot* comes from the Greek *despotes*, which roughly means "ruler" or "one with power." The word *despotism* means to "rule in the fashion of a despot" and thus can refer to a ruling group (i.e. an oligarchy) rather than an individual. The above named abuses and usurpations are attributed to a government that is controlled not by the power of the people as a whole but by the power wrested from the people by private, corporate monopolies

--prepared by John Schwiebert (john@tearsoup.com) in April, 2013.