

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Letter: What a shame

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Shaming people who are trying to make a difference for not meeting fabricated requirements might influence weak-minded people. Labeling people as hypocrites for trying to improve the public good just because they don't live up to crafted requirements is the real hypocrisy.

In support of public transit?
Hypocrite, for not using public transit.

Public libraries? Hypocrite, for buying books, not using the library

Clean air regulations?
Hypocrite, for complicitly breathing polluted air.
Moving off of fossil fuels and on to sustainable energy?
Hypocrite, for heating homes with fossil fuels and driving cars.

Luckily few are deceived by such toxic shaming. Brave people have succeeded in removing asbestos from construction materials, lead from gasoline, even sulphate aerosol pollution from industrial smokestack emissions. Ralph Nader helped us get seat belts and softer dashboards. He was honest riding in cars without seat belts to Congress promoting automobile safety. He worked for something better and used what was available to do so. Me, too, as I work for sustainable energy.

Now, there is some kind of toxic provincial power tactic out there to poo-poo anything new. Maybe improvements are a threat to the current arrangement. Maybe new ideas have to come from "them" and

not regular people. Maybe it's to stop other folks from looking too important.

But the more that toxic power tactics are used, the more that the rest of us see such things clearly. Are we just "crabs in a bucket" always derailing others' efforts at improvement? No. Can we learn something from this? We can learn to agree with one another on common values.

Citizens' Climate Lobby. Real values. Real agreement. Real action. We are moving from fossil fuels to sustainable energy. We need everyone's help.

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