

TO THE PEOPLE OF JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Did you know that Corporations have more rights than people? Do you think this is BS? Or perhaps you never thought about it!

Look at what has happened in Sunny Valley. A corporation has been given the right to put a gravel mine in the midst of a rural community against the wishes of the people who live there.

They do not want their wells to run dry, nor do they want 80 trucks a day up and down their narrow road. They don't want their property values to go down. They don't want to listen to the noise and vibration of rock crushers and heavy equipment all day and possibly nights. They also don't want to see fish killed because of pollution, wildlife and the biggest elk herd in Southern Oregon to be run out of the valley because of the noise and truck traffic.

This is because we are people and we think and feel like people. Even the rules and regulations set forth by Josephine County and the State of Oregon would, in theory, agree with us. But the politicians and administrators don't. In opposing the Sunny Valley mining proposal, we did our homework and we fought hard. We presented a huge amount of facts to the two county commissioners (Hare and Heck), who sat there congratulating us for doing such a good job of presenting the facts and making our arguments against having a gravel pit in our quiet little valley. To us, that sounded like people talking.

The shock of my life was when I witnessed those two Commissioners. (Hare and Heck) leaf through a list of weak-wristed and unenforceable conditions to approve the mining application as if they had not, just a few hours earlier, congratulated us for a good job of presenting the facts.

Don't think for one minute this couldn't happen in your neighborhood! Did you know under the law of this great nation that corporations are people? Did you know you can't deny a person the right to open a legal business in your neighborhood if the zoning is right, just because you don't like it? Did you know the planning department can recommend a zoning change so a business CAN be opened and the county commissioners can approve it? You don't have much to say about this and are given little consideration. Our government and laws are there to protect the corporations, not the people.

**JOHN AHLF
SUNNY VALLEY**

Letter-to-Editor ELUT
August 28, 2014