

SALES. Summer sales momentum evaporated in October. Lafayette sales dropped 8% from October of last year. Centralia and Snohomish were also down.

ECONOMY. The news is mixed. Record high auto sales and a booming real estate market contrast with a weakening world economy. A strong dollar and low commodities prices are holding down inflation. While Americans are spending more freely, flat to falling consumer goods prices eliminate any compunction to make large purchases now.

SECURITY. No items were reported missing during the month of October.

Initiative 1401 Comes to Oregon

John Regan

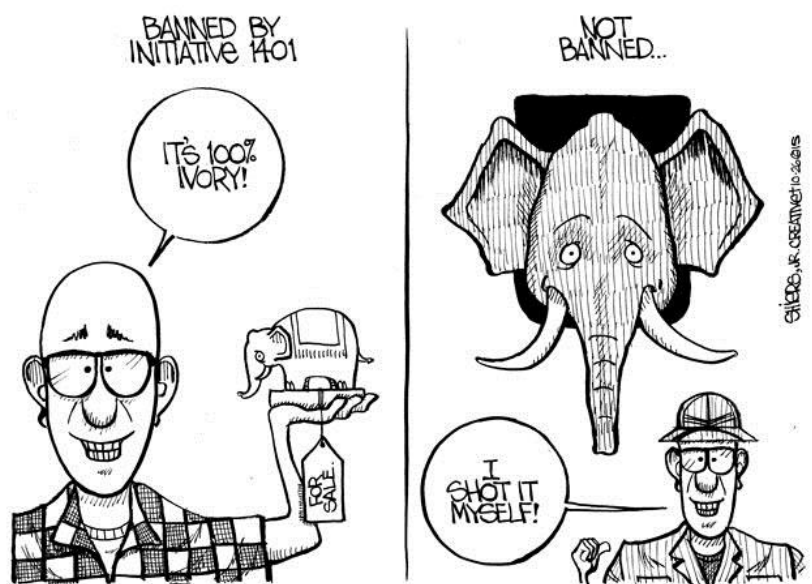
Billionaire Paul Allen has turned his sights on Oregon with a \$1.7 million contribution to a Statewide Initiative to ban trade in ivory and other products from endangered species. The initiative is similar to the \$3 million dollar campaign he financed for the recently passed Initiative 1401 in Washington.

The Washington campaign for Initiative 1401 never came forward with a single example of ivory or for that matter any endangered species being commercially imported through the Ports of Seattle or Tacoma. They could only come up with 50 items confiscated from a dozen returning tourists. (KING TV 10/17/15)

Instead the campaign's press conferences trotted out big game trophies, a rhino leg turned into a table, tiger pelts and the like. Similar trophies were recently displayed at a press conference kicking off the Oregon campaign. (Ore-Live 10/13/15). Ironically, both Initiatives place no controls or limitations on big game hunting. Big game hunting is legal and regulated. The USDA confiscated and destroyed 72 pounds of Paul Allen's giraffe bones only because their importation did not have proper permits. (Seattle P.I. 7/1/2015)

The Seattle Times (10/27/15) reported that 39,000 game trophies have come through the Port of Seattle since 1999. Initiative supporters imply that endangered species would be protected because returning big game hunters would no longer be able to sell their trophies, forcing us to imagine that after spending upwards of \$100,000 for a safari big game hunters would actually want to sell their trophies.

On the world stage the competition for declining elephant and other endangered species appears to be between Western, mostly American and European Big Game Hunters who are willing to pay up to \$350,000 for a single permit to kill a rhino (U of W, Conservation 1/15/14) and Eastern, mostly Chinese collectors and investors who have driven up the price of elephant tusk to \$2,000 a kilogram (Earth Island Journal Summer, 2015). The issues are complex. But it appears that these Initiatives fall on the side of the hunters. **Its O.K. to hunt, just don't sell what you kill.**



Cartoon from Bothell/Kenmore Reporter 10/26/15

