



January 22, 2016

Statement by Harney County Judge Steve Grasty

Oregon's governor said it best when she said this spectacle is ripping out the heart of our community. And to that I will add this: the real Harney County community respects the rule of law.

Many of us are frustrated by state and federal regulation of land use. Some here are mightily angry about our economy which we cannot control. Most of all, many of us are appalled by those who were neither invited nor welcomed, but who purport to speak for our county's residents.

There are many of us in Harney County who are incredulous about the federal government's fear of taking action against the lawlessness that we are witnessing on a daily basis. It is time to stop the madness. We want our county back.

Citizens of Harney County, those of us who live and work here, are not the unsophisticated rubes that are being portrayed in national media reports. We are hard working. We are proud and strong. We support our schools. We are patriotic. We take care of our neighbors. And we want our county back!

As County Judge, I have never before experienced a situation like what we face now. I am proud that our Sheriff, Dave Ward, has been a voice of reason under the most trying of circumstances. I am proud that our fellow county residents have resisted any temptation to "engage" those who attempt to exploit us.

Never before have I been more proud of Harney County and its citizens. I continue to ask those who occupy our public lands in Harney County to leave, to leave peacefully, and to leave now.

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