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Bloomberg, Pope: Green subsidies not needed

SALEM, Ore.-Today, in an ear-popping [interview featured on OPB](#), former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former chairman of the Sierra Club Carl Pope discussed how cities should respond to climate change. Their co-authored book is *Climate of Hope*. Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli, of John Day, was surprised to be in agreement with left-wing billionaire Bloomberg and a former chairman of the Sierra Club.

"Politics never gets boring, it seems like every so often something does shock me. I never guessed I would agree with Michael Bloomberg. Who knew?" said Ferrioli. "I'm happy to see billionaire Bloomberg and a former chairman of the Sierra Club, wrap their arms around ending unnecessary subsidies to wind and solar companies who according to the two authors, have become competitive and efficient without them. Now, we should follow their advice."

Bloomberg, who once ran the nation's biggest city, claims cities can lead the way on climate rather than the state or federal government. He says wind and solar subsidies can be ceased since wind and solar companies have finally attained the ability to sustain themselves. Pope says cities are better positioned to act and that energy transmission does not need subsidy.

The exchange that caught Ferrioli off guard is featured below:

RACHEL MARTIN, BYLINE: So Mayor Bloomberg, you say businesses are already investing in clean energy. What do you do about some clean energy technologies that still need to be propped up - which still require subsidies, wind or solar.

BLOOMBERG: Well, I don't think wind or solar needs it anymore. Wind or

solar, without subsidies - Carl, correct me if I'm wrong - but they've now become not only competitive, they are more efficient in most parts of the country and the world. There are places where you have transmission problems and that sort of thing. But fundamentally, they were supported by public subsidies, got going, and now they no longer needed it, which...

POPE: No, Mike is right. I mean, wind and solar at this point, in places where it's windy or sunny, are providing the cheapest electricity the world has ever known. This is the cheapest..

MARTIN: But transmission is still an issue. Do you need the federal government to help in that?

POPE: You don't need the federal government to subsidize transmission. Some of the states say no, we don't want to let electricity go across our state lines, and the federal government has a role of coordinating that. But transmission does not need subsidy.

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