

Spring Magazine 2019

## *Washington Wire* by Lea McCullough

### **Legislative Update:**

*The 2019 legislative session began on January 14<sup>th</sup>* and will run 105 consecutive days, concluding on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Democrats gained seats in the both the House and Senate following the November general elections, holding significant majorities in both bodies as well as controlling the governor's office. During the first four weeks of the session over 2,000 bills were introduced, many targeting the petroleum industry specifically as well as numerous other anti-business measures capturing most Washington employers, including fuel suppliers.

WOMA has been on defense since day one, pushing back against what are mostly unproven, idealistic policies grounded more in emotion than science or practical effect. The following is just a sample of a broad base of legislation we are addressing:

Implementing a California-style low carbon fuel standard to reduce the carbon intensity of fuel by 10% of 2017 levels by 2028 and by 20% of 2017 levels by 2035 (HB 1110/SB 5412)

Limiting GHG emission levels to those established by the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement (HB 1113)

Requiring non-emitting and renewable resources provide 100% of all retail electricity sales by 2045 (HB 1211/SB 5116)

Prohibiting hydraulic fracturing for fossil fuel and natural gas production (SB 5145)

Creating a presumption that all independent contractors are employees of the contracting business or entity (HB 1515/SB 5513)

Requiring employee work schedules be established 14 days in advance and providing payment penalties to employees when schedules are rearranged within 14 days of the established schedule (HB 1491/SB 5757)

Implementing a 9% long-term capital gains tax on the sale of personal property and increasing the business and occupations tax on gross receipts for service-related activities from 1.5% to 2.5% (HB 1343/SB 5129)

Again, the above bills are just a reflection of what we are up against, which has resulted from pent up frustration by ultra-liberal policymakers who, up until this year, have not had large enough majorities to see them through the legislative process. That said, we are armed with facts and not emotion and will continue to fight for sound policy measures to protect our members and their customers.

### **WOMA Convention:**

*The 2019 WOMA Convention has a revised schedule* of events and is planning to be quite the bang! We listened to many vendors and accommodated their needs so we can continue to fill the tradeshow floor and continue to make this event profitable and successful! We are also adding a PAC fundraising golf tournament on Monday morning at Tumble Creek which will be limited to 24 golfers. More details will be coming out shortly about that event and potential sponsorships.