

Summer Magazine 2021

Washington Wire by Lea McCullough

WASHINGTON TAKES HUGE HIT

IN 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2021 105-day virtual legislative session concluded on Sunday, April 25th. To say that this was historically one of the worst sessions for businesses and taxpayers in Washington would be an understatement. To quote republican Senator Doug Ericksen, “*The most radical Legislature in the history of Washington state is forcing everyone to live like Seattle.*”

In a noticeably short period, most occurring within the last 36 hours of the session, the democrat majority passed a massive two-year operating budget, a capital gains tax on high wage earners, tax credits for the poor and climate change legislation they have been pushing for nearly 20 years, among other things.

For WIED, we lost our long and hard-fought battle against a low carbon fuel standard and carbon cap and trade legislation; both of which passed and will be signed by the governor. At the beginning of the session, we knew that these policies along with a proposed straight carbon tax would be competing with a transportation revenue package. While none of the carbon measures raise money for transportation, they do increase the cost of fuel which competes directly against a transportation budget that requires a gas tax increase.

Throughout the session, all these policies were in conflict because the passage of any two climate proposals and a gas tax would increase the price of fuel by what was estimated to be nearly a dollar a gallon. We kept the pressure on throughout and were cautiously optimistic that the sum of these measures would collapse under their own weight. Unfortunately, that did not happen. In the last few hours of the session what became known as “The Grand Bargain” was struck. Both LCFS and cap and trade bills passed but may not be implemented until a gas tax increase of at least 5 cents per gallon is passed. Because it will take a couple of years for the programs under the carbon bills to take effect, there is little doubt of the passage of a gas tax increase. This will all take place before consumers feel the pain at the pump and, by then, it will be too late.

WOMA REBRANDS TO WIED:

After 64 years of being the Washington Oil Marketers Association, the Board of Directors decided it was time to rebrand the name and position ourselves to be more “energy” focused, and remove the name “oil” from our presence.

Out of necessity in the ever-brutal legislative front, the rebranding is in response to the need and desire to have the ability to get into the Congressional and local state offices to influence bills and policy around the energy sector. As you can see in our legislative report, the pressures to move away from anything liquid petroleum are immense, and as this year shows, impossible to stop.

Therefore, The Board of Directors unanimously decided to rename our organization to the Washington Independent Energy Distributors, with a tagline of “*Fueling Mobility in the Pacific Northwest.*” The logo and name have been integrated and implemented as of April 1st, 2021.

THE WASHINGTON ENERGY AND C-STORE CONVENTION *IS HAPPENING!*

We are extremely excited to announce that we will be hosting our annual convention and tradeshow during the 3rd week of June as traditional to our Association. It will come with some modifications to address COVID concerns and restrictions, but we are quite excited for an event where we can come together and focus on reconnecting as a family. *I'm very excited for what is to come!*