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# WOMA WIRE

## Fuel Prices, Policy, and the Path Forward: WOMA's 2026 Legislative Update

### Advocacy, Action, and Engagement: WOMA's Update

As we close out the 2026 legislative session, the Washington Oil Marketers Association (WOMA) remains focused on one core mission: advocating for our members and ensuring Washington consumers understand what is driving fuel prices in our state.

This year has brought significant policy developments, continued regulatory pressure, and renewed urgency around affordability. Below is an update on our recent advocacy efforts, legislative outcomes, and new initiatives designed to elevate awareness and engagement across Washington.



Together, these measures could reduce fuel prices by up to \$1.30 per gallon, providing meaningful relief to families and businesses across Washington state.

We also pointed to Georgia's recent action, where a temporary fuel tax suspension was implemented to directly reduce costs at the pump.

However, according to recent reporting from *The Seattle Times*, Washington State leadership has indicated no current intention to pursue similar relief measures. While other states have explored options, Washington has chosen not to act at this time.

WOMA believes this remains a critical missed opportunity to provide short-term relief during a period of extraordinary global market pressure, and we will continue to advocate for practical, balanced solutions.



### Fuel Price Relief: WOMA's Call to Action

In response to rapidly rising fuel prices — driven by global instability and compounded by Washington's layered cost structure—WOMA formally requested immediate relief from Governor Ferguson's Office.

Specifically, we urged consideration of:

- A temporary pause on the state fuel excise tax
- Suspension or adjustment of Climate Commitment Act (CCA) compliance costs



# 2026 Legislative Session Recap

*The 2026 session adjourned* on March 12 after a fast-moving 60-day session that resulted in 267 bills passed and significant policy changes impacting Washington’s business climate.

## Key Highlights Impacting Our Industry

### 1. Introduction of a State Income Tax

One of the most consequential developments was passage of a new tax on high-income earners:

- Applies to individuals and entities earning over \$1 million
- Scheduled to take effect beginning in 2028
- Expected to face legal challenges and potential ballot action

This marks a historic shift, as Washington has long been one of the few states without an income tax. Washington has always promised a No Income Tax environment, as the Business and Occupation Tax, a rare and regressive tax, was in place instead. Some indicate this move by the Legislature is unconstitutional and will likely be contested in WA Courts.

### 2. Transportation & Fuel Policy Changes

The Legislature adopted a \$16.6 billion transportation budget, continuing to rely heavily on fuel tax revenue while making targeted adjustments:

- Delay of additional diesel tax increases
- Continued indexing of fuel taxes to inflation
- Increased aviation fuel taxes and related fees

At the same time, policies tied to the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) continue to expand regulatory reach and cost impacts across the fuel supply chain.

### 3. Expansion of Cap-and-Invest (CCA) Requirements

WOMA’s most significant legislative focus this session centered on proposed changes to Washington’s Cap-and-Invest program under the Climate Commitment Act (CCA).

Second Substitute House Bill 2215 (2SHB 2215) represented one of the most impactful — and challenging — policy battles for our industry this year.

### The final legislation:

- Lowers emissions compliance thresholds, bringing more fuel suppliers into the program and cross checks new businesses taking advantage of a loophole in importation of products
- Expands greenhouse gas reporting requirements
- Tightens regulatory oversight across the fuel supply chain
- Includes a targeted exemption for certain distributor operations
- Exempts emissions related to lubricants beginning in 2027

This bill fundamentally reshapes participation in Washington’s carbon market and increases compliance complexity for many in our industry.

This was, without question, WOMA’s most difficult and hard-fought issue of the 2026 session.

We want to extend our sincere appreciation to WOMA’s Board of Directors, legislative committee members, and engaged marketers across the state who stepped up — through testimony, outreach, and direct engagement with lawmakers.

Your leadership, responsiveness, and willingness to stay at the table during a complex and evolving negotiation made a meaningful difference. While the final outcome presents ongoing challenges, WOMA’s presence ensured that critical operational realities were heard and considered throughout the process.

### 4. Budget Growth and Revenue Strategy

The Legislature adopted an \$80.2 billion operating budget, relying in part on new and expanded revenue sources, including:

- The newly adopted income tax
- Changes to B&O tax exemptions
- Adjustments to existing tax structures

These decisions reflect continued upward pressure on taxation and regulatory policy in Washington State.

## Launching WA Fuel Prices: A New Consumer Education Initiative

*Every year*, I ask my President one question ... “*What impact do you want to leave on the Association that will have a lasting effect?*” Jarrod Franson has offered me a list, but his major focus is improving our Social Media Presence and creating a consumer-based website that help explain the ongoing battle each of you

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face daily. One of WOMA's most exciting initiatives this year is the launch of our consumer-facing website:

👉 [www.wafuelprices.com](http://www.wafuelprices.com)



This is a critical step in ensuring that consumers — and policymakers — have a clearer understanding of the policies shaping fuel costs in Washington State. Please feel free to SHARE, SHARE, SHARE in any of your emails, invoice stuffers, or include it on your own website for consumers to understand!

## Join Us: 2026 Washington Energy & C-Store Conference

*We invite you* to join us for our premier annual event:

### 2026 Washington Energy & C-Store Conference

Suncadia Lodge, Cle Elum, WA  
June 15–17, 2026

This year's conference will bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and partners for:

- Insightful educational sessions
- Legislative and regulatory updates
- Networking and business development opportunities

Registration is OPEN, so get your hotel rooms early and register for a great year of FUN! [www.wpma.com/washington/convention](http://www.wpma.com/washington/convention)

This campaign is designed to:

- Break down the real drivers behind Washington's high fuel prices
- Provide transparency into taxes, fees, and regulatory programs
- Offer a platform for education, awareness, and public engagement



We are also actively building our presence on social media:

- **Facebook:**  
WA Fuel Prices  
👉 <https://www.facebook.com/WAFuelPrices>
- **Instagram:**  
@WAFuelPrices

We are asking and encouraging all members and their employees to follow and engage with our content; like, comment, and share posts; and help amplify accurate information across your networks.



## Looking Ahead

*The 2026 session* reinforced a clear reality: Washington's fuel policy environment continues to evolve rapidly, with increasing complexity and cost implications for our industry and the consumers we serve.

WOMA remains committed to:

- **Advocacy** on behalf of our members
- **Education** for policymakers and the public
- **Engagement** across all levels of the industry

We appreciate your continued support, involvement, and leadership as we navigate these challenges together.

