WINTER 2015

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Viewpoint is the quarterly magazine of Washington Policy Center, an independent Washington state-focused think tank.

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WINTER 2015

Dear Friends,

As the holiday season approaches, all of us at Washington Policy Center would like to thank you for your steadfast support of our work. Our success over the past year would not be possible without your generosity.

2015 surpassed our expectations, with record numbers at our Annual Dinner events in Bellevue and Spokane, including our Young Professionals Annual Dinner event. We also experienced tremendous strides forward in all of our research centers and we continue to focus on key issues like saving our state's charter schools, which you will read about in this issue.

Also in this issue, we take a critical look at our state supreme court and their recent rulings; some structural reforms lawmakers could adopt to end the threat of a state government shutdown; and ways to reduce traffic congestion.

As the year comes to an end, we are left more committed than ever to make an even deeper impact in the coming year. 2016 looks to be an exciting year with a new edition of our popular *Policy Guide*, our 3rd Annual Solutions Summit events next May and all of the key policy issues facing our state both during the next legislative session and on the ballot during the upcoming, and very important, election year. We are also excited about an upcoming change to our Center for Small Business, which will be re-named the Center for Small Business & Labor Reform next year, as we continue to advance our efforts on labor reform here in our state.

We wish you a happy holiday season and hope that *Viewpoint* provides you with valuable news and analysis that you can share with your friends and family, and at your office.

Very truly yours,

Dann Mead Smith President







FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE







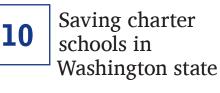
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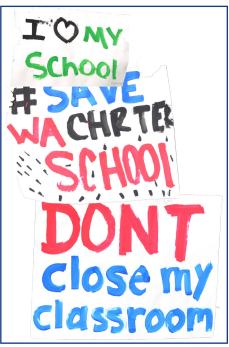
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A beautiful night for the Annual Dinner reception in Bellevue.

Images of Washington Policy Center's 2015

Annual Dinner



Signs made by students attending charter schools in the Seattle area.



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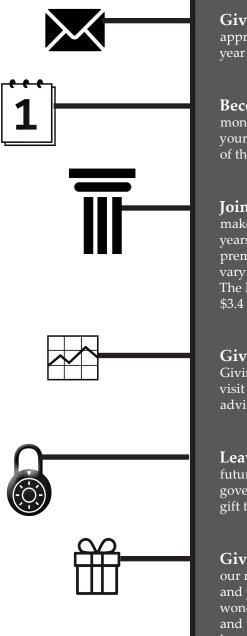
Washington's close-up on Jeopardy!
Spokane voters rejects 'Worker Bill of Rights'



15 WPC Young Professional college clubs

Now is the perfect time to consider your annual support or an additional gift to organizations that matter to you and your family.

Your investment with Washington Policy Center makes a measurable difference in advancing free-market solutions across our state. Rest assured that every dollar of your support helps WPC share your values with lawmakers in Olympia and across the state. Your support helps us defend Charter Schools, grow our Young Professionals and College Outreach programs, and educate citizens for the vital 2016 election cycle. As always, your gift to WPC is 100% tax deductible. Please consider supporting WPC in one of these ways:



Give a gift via mail, online, or over the phone. It's that simple! WPC appreciates gifts of all sizes and types. Our basic membership level starts at \$50 per year and levels and benefits increase from there.

Become a monthly donor. Support the battle of ideas each month! Being a monthly donor is simple — we can either charge your credit card or directly debit your checking or savings account — and then we send you a tax receipt at the end of the year.

Join the WPC Pillar Society. The Pillar Society distinguishes donors who make a substantial pledge (\$5,000 per year or higher) which is paid over three years. Along with the prestige of being a Pillar Society member, benefits include premier tables at our conferences and Annual Dinner (reserved before sell-out!), varying recognition throughout the year and invitations to special private events. The Pillar Society now boasts 80 members who have generously pledged over \$3.4 million to WPC!

Give a gift of stock. Did you know WPC gladly accepts donations of stock? Giving stock is quick and easy and can also have great tax benefits for you. Please visit our website at www.washingtonpolicy.org/donate or ask your financial advisor for more details.

Leave a lasting gift via WPC's Legacy Society. Invest in Washington's future and keep your hard-earned dollars from being taxed by the federal government. You can become a member of WPC's Legacy Society by including a gift to WPC in your will, living trust, retirement plan or life insurance.

Give WPC memberships as gifts. Back due to popular demand! Many of our members like to give the gift of WPC to their loved ones, especially students and young professionals. As you're aware, WPC membership comes with wonderful and educational benefits such as mailings, our *Viewpoint* magazine and weekly emails with our current publications, invitations to events with key policymakers and thought leaders, and access to our in-depth website. For each \$100+ annual gift membership, WPC will send you a "starter packet" of information and one of WPC's three popular books to present to the recipient.

Donate online at www.washingtonpolicy.org/donate or by returning the response envelope.

Above all, thank you for your support! Please contact WPC's Sydney Jansen, at 206-937-9691 or sjansen@washingtonpolicy.org to discuss our giving options. New state law prioritizes congestion relief for road projects, so we can all spend less time sitting in traffic



By Bob Pishue, Director, Coles Center for Transportation

This Opinion/Editorial originally appeared in The Puget Sound Business Journal.

According to the GPS company TomTom, Seattle has the fifth-worst traffic congestion in the nation, right behind New York City.

But drivers won't need to read the report — Seattle's traffic just feels like its getting worse. The good news is a new state law could begin providing some welcome relief to Puget Sound travelers.

The bill was part of a recently passed \$16 billion transportation package to reform the way the state builds roads and bridges. Gov. Jay Inslee hailed the new law as "almost priceless."

It directs state officials to make reducing traffic congestion a top priority when spending the public's transportation dollars.

The new law will be a breath of fresh air for many; more than 90 percent of Washingtonians choose driving as their main mode of conveyance. In fact, the amount people drive is already up 5 percent over last year.

The law may be new, but the idea of spending to reducing traffic jams is not.

Fifteen years ago, Gov. Gary Locke recommended ways the state could deliver a top-notch transportation system for the traveling public.

His proposals, many of which became law, included strong, performance-based measures to hold elected leaders and state officials accountable for reducing traffic congestion.

For example, one benchmark created a priority system for fixing our ailing bridges — "no bridges shall be structurally deficient" — and "safety retrofits shall be performed on those state bridges at the highest seismic risk levels."

The benchmarks also worked to limit administrative overhead by requiring officials

at both the Department of Transportation and at local transit agencies to contain costs.

Another Locke law required that trips get quicker, by specifying that "delay per driver shall be significantly reduced and no worse than the national mean."

But in 2007, lawmakers repealed Locke's benchmarks. They replaced them with six goals of the transportation program; traffic relief was not among them.

The policy choice not to focus on eliminating traffic jams was unwise. Just a year earlier agency officials determined the state already had a "growing demand-capacity imbalance." The public's driving had increased 91 percent since 1980, but road capacity had only increased 8 percent. It's a policy choice that will always lead to more traffic jams.

Since repealing the benchmarks, our state officials have largely given up on reducing traffic jams, preferring instead to just let traffic get worse, perhaps hoping to force people out of their cars and into unpopular mass transit.

But all is not lost. Former State Auditor Brian Sonntag determined that traffic congestion is "solvable" and "a clear commitment to reducing congestion would likely shift investment decisions."

Washington Policy Center has urged lawmakers to return to a system based on improving the public's travel times, so people can spend more time with their families, friends and neighbors, and less time staring at the bumper of the car in front of them.

Traffic congestion also strangles the state's freight and export economy. In fact, the state found a 20 percent increase in traffic congestion would reduce economic output by \$3.3 billion and cost Washington state more than 25,000 jobs.

Government officials just imposed the largest gas tax increase in state history, a 7-cents-per-gallon increase this month and a nearly 5-cent increase next year, and will spend more than \$16 billion on transportation projects in the coming years.

New accountability measures like traffic relief are a good start, and should be part of every decision made when spending our transportation tax dollars.

If state officials ignore their duty to improve travel times, people would be simply paying more to sit in traffic jams.



3 budget reforms to end the threat of state government shutdown



By Jason Mercier, Director, Center for Government Reform

This Opinion/Editorial originally appeared in The Seattle Times.

There is no reason why a government shutdown should occur, even in a deficit situation.

During the last two state budget cycles, Washington lawmakers have come dangerously close to forcing a government shutdown due to failures in the budget process. The current 2015-17 state budget was signed just 18 minutes before a shutdown would have occurred. The 2013-15 budget was finalized just a few hours before state agencies would have been forced to shutdown.

In both cases, the tax revenue provided by citizens was increasing substantially, meaning these threats of government shutdowns were occurring at a time of rising revenues, not at a time of budget deficits.

There is no reason a government shutdown should occur, even in a deficit situation. To end this threat, lawmakers should consider reforms to the budget process to assure people who rely on vital government services that a political impasse will not close agency doors.

Here are three structural reforms lawmakers could adopt:

- Early-action base budget at the beginning of the legislative session (Utah does this)
- Continuing resolution enactment in the last week of a regular session if no budget is passed (New Hampshire, North Carolina and South Carolina do this)
- Constitutional amendment authorizing continuing appropriations at current spending levels if there is no budget by the end of the session (Rhode Island and Wisconsin practice this)

Under an early-action-base-budget process, budget writers from the state House and Senate would meet on a day between the November revenue forecast and the beginning of the legislative session in January to agree on a base budget framework.

The purpose of this meeting would be to ensure that current spending levels can be maintained under projected revenue. Then lawmakers would review and approve the base budget during the first weeks of the legislative session so state government operations would continue at current spending levels in case a budget impasse occurs late in the session.

After approval of a contingency base budget, the rest of session would be devoted to debating whether lawmakers should increase or decrease the "real" budget compared to the base budget levels to reflect the updated revenue numbers provided by the February state revenue forecast.

Another option lawmakers should consider is to enact a continuing resolution during the last week of session when no formal budget agreement has been reached. This is similar to the Utah basebudget process, but action happens at the end of session instead of at the beginning. States that use this budget fail-safe process include New Hampshire, North Carolina and South Carolina.

For example, Senate Ways and Means chairman Sen. Andy Hill introduced PSSB 6051, "Continuity of State Government," on June 25 in an effort to avoid a possible state government shutdown at the end of the month. The measure was not ultimately needed, but its introduction represented an attempt by a key legislative leader to create a continuing budget resolution process in Washington state.

The early-action base budget and continuing resolution safeguards require the Legislature to take positive action to avoid a government shutdown. Though the hope is that lawmakers would do so, there is no guarantee they would act in time. This is why the automatic continuation of spending at current levels, a policy used by Rhode Island and Wisconsin, should be considered.

Article 8, Section 4 of our state constitution requires the Legislature to appropriate all money spent, so adopting a policy that automatically continues spending at current levels would likely require asking voters to enact a constitutional amendment.

Adoption of one of these three proven budget reforms — using a base-budget process, approval of a continuing resolution, or constitutional changes to authorize continued spending at current levels until a budget can be adopted — would end the threat of a government shutdown in our state.

Ideally, lawmakers should come to a budget agreement during the 105-day regular session. But as history has continually demonstrated, the public cannot be assured of that outcome. Structural budget reforms to prevent a state government shutdown from ever occurring are worth considering.

Making dollars and sense out of drug prices



by Roger Stark, MD, FACS WPC Health Policy Analyst

Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, as well as many other elected officials, are demanding that the government impose price controls on medicines as a way to bring down health care costs. In 2013, prescription drug costs accounted for just nine percent of overall health care expenses. In economics, setting price limits on goods and services always results in scarcity, with fewer of those things being produced and made available to consumers. This has been confirmed by the disastrous centrally-planned economies of communist countries.

There is a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding about drug pricing, manufacturing, marketing and the impact of government regulations in the United States. This confusion has only been made worse by the recent egregious behavior of Turing Pharmaceuticals which raised the price of Daraprim, a drug that fights parasitic infections, by 4,100 percent.

Only five percent of drugs make it through clinical trials and go on to be marketed and make money for their manufacturers. Over 95 percent of research on new drugs fails to produce treatments and lose money. The final pricing of the successful drug must make up for all the money spent on the research and development (R&D) of all the previous failures.

On average, the ten largest drug manufacturers spend 16 percent of their total revenue on R&D. A better comparison across industries is the percent of sales spent on R&D. According to the National Science Foundation, in 2013 the average of sales profit across all industries spent on R&D was 3.3 percent. The pharmaceutical industry spent 10.3 percent of total sales profit on R&D, about the same as the computer and electronic industry which was 10.6 percent.

Drug companies are heavily criticized for their large advertizing budgets. However, research shows that there is a substantial range for what pharmaceutical manufactures spend on marketing. According to the BBC News, in 2013 the ten largest drug companies spent between 17.9 percent and 28.4 percent of total revenue on advertizing. The average was 23 percent. Compare that to the 21 to 23 percent that IBM and Microsoft spend on marketing.

Just as professional athletes command large salaries because of their time-limited careers, innovative drug manufacturers have a limited amount of time to earn a profit on a drug before the patent expires. Once a drug goes "off patent," it must compete with generic drugs. Generic manufacturers have a definite role in the health care system and can offer good prices, but they don't have the added expense of R&D.

Government price controls not only limit the supply of a product, they also limit the interest of financial investors in a company. Seattle biopharmaceutical companies experienced this recently when their stock prices dropped 13 percent in one week (falling six percent in one day!) simply because of Secretary Clinton's pricecontrol announcement. Fewer investors mean less money for life-saving new drugs and less competition in developing those drugs.

The high prices of new pharmaceuticals must also be weighed in comparison to the cost of treating a patient without that drug. For example, Sovaldi is a drug that treats hepatitis C and costs \$84,000 for a curative three month treatment. The alternative, a liver transplant, costs over \$300,000 and is associated with a great deal of pain and suffering, assuming a donor liver is even available.

If politicians really want to bring prices down and increase competition in the drug industry, they should focus on streamlining the drug approval process to decrease the time and money manufacturers spend on bringing a new drug to market. Depending on the study, the average cost of bringing a drug to market today is \$2.5 to \$5 billion and takes 10 to 15 years to get through the government regulatory process.

Putting price controls on drugs will not solve the fundamental problem of our health care delivery system. Unlike the electronics or computer markets, in health care a third party, either the government through Medicare, Medicaid and Obamacare, or employers through insurance companies, pays for the majority of health care in the United States.

Throughout our economy, the free market, without third party interference, results in better products at cheaper prices. Allowing patients, in consultation with their providers, to decide which drugs are best clinically and financially for them should be the goal of health care reform, not damaging price controls.



Our political state Supreme Court



By Liv Finne, Director, Center for Education

Of the three branches of our state government, the judiciary above all is supposed to be free of political influence. When judges are sworn into office, they promise to administer justice without regard to the interests of powerful groups that bring cases

groups that bring cases before them. That is why images of Lady Justice are shown wearing a blindfold, to symbolize objectivity and impartiality, regardless of the wealth, position or power of the parties in court.

A series of decisions handed down by the Washington State Supreme Court, however, point to a pattern of political influence, all to the benefit of the most powerful public-sector union in the state, the Washington Education Association (WEA).

Observers agree Washington has the most leftleaning political court in living memory, and key cases suggest the current justices are favoring the powerful over the educational interests of children.

The primary political goal of WEA union executives is to secure the greatest amount of spending possible for the public education system, regardless of whether that improves learning outcomes for students.

The source of the WEA's power stems from Washington not being a right-to-work state. That means every public school teacher, and most other public education employees, must pay monthly union dues or union executives will have them fired. Few teachers complain, or even mention the subject in the workplace. After all, why ask for trouble.

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Under this system WEA union executives take about \$34 million year from worker paychecks, according to public filings available from the IRS. A good portion of the money is spent on politics. WEA executives operate the largest lobby operation in Olympia, according to public disclosure reports, and The Seattle Times found that the WEA is the largest donor in Supreme Court races. One justice, Susan Owens, benefitted from \$50,000 in union money spent to secure her election.

In major cases the court has consistently ruled in favor of the WEA. Here are some examples.

January 5, 2012 - Court ruled for the WEA in a case about education funding. In an unprecedented move, the court said it intends to "retain jurisdiction," allowing the justices to exert direction over education policy in the years following.

February 28, 2013 - Court ruled for the WEA, striking down voter-passed Initiative 1053, to require a two-thirds vote in the legislature to raise taxes. (I-1053 was the fifth time voters had tried to enact this form of tax limitation.)

September 11, 2014 - Court agreed with the WEA, ruling the legislature in contempt. It was the first time in state history that the court sought to coerce lawmakers by issuing a contempt ruling.

August 13, 2015 - Court agreed with the WEA, imposing a \$100,000-a-day fine on lawmakers. It was the first time in state history the court had imposed a fine on members of the legislative branch.

September 4, 2015 - Court agreed with a WEA lawsuit to strike down voter-approved Initiative 1240, the state's high quality charter school law, shuttering charter schools around the state. Charter schools operate in 41 states, but the court's action struck down the right of parents to send their children to a charter school in Washington.

September 4, 2015 – Court announced it intends to "retain jurisdiction" over Initiative 1366, meaning the justices likely intend to strike it since it has been passed by voters. The initiative was WEA's top target for defeat in the 2015 election. "

FEATURE

"When judges are sworn into office, they promise to administer justice without regard to the interests of powerful groups that bring cases before them."



November 19, 2015 – Court agreed with the WEA by re-affirming its ruling against charter schools. Washington's present and former Attorneys General and 10 current legislators from both political parties had asked the Court to reverse its flawed ruling.

The court's decisions have been severely criticized by newspapers across the state and by respected legal scholars. The scholars include Phil Talmadge, former Supreme Court justice, and five of Washington's current and former Attorneys General. They say the court's ruling on charter schools is legally flawed and depends on tortured logic and errors of fact.

With this court, the union always seems to win and parents yearning for reform and choices always seem to lose.

Lawmakers of both parties say they want to pass a bill to save charter schools, and allow the 1,300 students who attend charters to continue to get a good public education. Cynics say the Supreme Court will simply strike down that law too, but by then voters may have decided to change the membership of the court to re-balance its left-leaning bias.

In the meantime, charter schools are struggling to stay open and education reformers are working to expand learning options for children and families. Lawmakers are working toward a bipartisan solution. Next time, real progress in education may stay enacted, because hopefully by then we will have different justices sitting on our highest court.



Saving charter schools in our state

On September 4, 2015, in a 6-3 vote, the Washington supreme court struck down our state's charter school law voters had passed in 2012. The state teachers union, the Washington Education Association (WEA), which filed the lawsuit, celebrated the court's ruling that would close the state's nine public charter schools, causing charter school families to fear they would lose their school.

The court's ruling deprives 1,300 mostly lowincome and minority students of the chance to get a high quality public education. Unless the court changes its mind, the only way to save Washington's charter schools is for lawmakers to pass a new charter school law in the next legislative session, which starts on January 11, 2016.

Washington Policy Center reignited the debate about charter schools in Washington state with its "Option for Learning" in 2011. This debate ultimately resulted in the voters passing Initiative 1240, to open 40 charter schools in Washington. This charter school law represents the most significant innovation in public education Washington state has seen in decades.

Charter schools are founded on the concept of local control, since they are run by a local community board. Unlike traditional schools, charter schools are allowed to hire their own school leaders and teachers, rather than having them assigned by central district administrators. Charter schools are held to rigorous accountability standards by the state or local school boards. Unlike traditional schools, charter schools can be closed down if they do not educate students, providing an important safeguard against trapping children in failing schools.

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Charter schools are popular with parents. In Washington state, parent demand is so high that charter schools were oversubscribed. School leaders held lotteries to select their students. Across the nation, in 41 other states, charter school enrollment is exploding, with nearly 3 million students now attending over 6,700 charter schools. In those states, charter schools are non-controversial and are a recognized alternative offered within the public education system.

Charter schools are particularly popular with low-income and minority families, whose children are often blindly assigned to the worst-performing urban schools based on zip code. These families like the safer and more disciplined learning environments charter schools create for their students. Charter schools often require students to wear uniforms, and offer lessons in character that lead to success in school and later in life.

An impressive array of bi-partisan leaders are fighting to save charter schools in Washington state.

First, respected legal scholars say the state supreme court's ruling is flat wrong. Democrat Attorney General Bob Ferguson has asked the supreme court to reverse its ruling, pointing out the court's errors of logic and fact. All of Washington's former attorneys general, from both parties, Rob McKenna, Christine Gregoire, Ken Eikenberry and Slade Gorton have also asked the court to reconsider.

Second, a bipartisan group of 10 legislators have filed papers asking the court to change its charter school ruling. They are Democrats Rep. Judy Clibborn, Rep. Eric Pettigrew, Rep. Larry Springer, Senator Steve Hobbs and Senator Mark Mullet, joined by Republicans Rep. Chad Magendanz, Rep. Norma Smith, Sen. John Braun, Sen Joe Fain and Sen. Steve Litzow. Their brief was filed by respected former state supreme court justice and former Democrat State Senator Phil Talmadge.

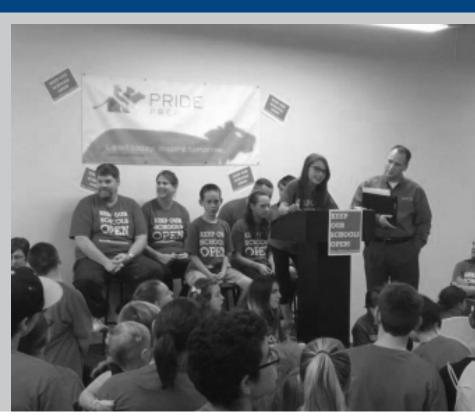
Watch our newly released videos telling the stories of children and parents already attending a charter school and show your support for charter schools by adding your name to the list of supporters!

www.washingtonpolicy.org/savecharterschools

Third, leaders in the state legislature are now staking out their positions. Republican education leaders have announced one of their top priorities in the next legislative session will be to save and strengthen charter schools.

By contrast, Democrat Governor Inslee says he opposes charter schools and thinks charter school parents should be required to change schools and send their children to a school assigned by district administrators. He may veto any rescue legislation passed to fix the charter school law. Frank Chopp, Speaker of the House, and Rep. Sharon Tomiko-Santos, Chair of the House Education Committee, are silent on whether they want to allow children to attend a charter school. As close allies of the WEA union, however, the prospects for gaining their support are not good.

The WEA's long-shot strategy of seeking a court ruling to close charter schools three years after the law passed and a number of schools have already opened, succeeded beyond the union's wildest dreams. Now lawmakers and Governor Inslee face the decision of whether Washington will be the first state in the country to shut down all its charter schools. Alternatively, state leaders could enact a law that allows charter schools to continue. Either way, the issue will be a top priority in the coming legislative session.



WPC's Chris Cargill emcees a #SaveWaCharters rally in Spokane.



Annual Dinner 2015

More than 2,250 attendees gathered in Spokane and Bellevue to hear from some of our nation's most prominent figures.

In Spokane, our Eastern Washington Annual Dinner event drew over 750 people at the new Davenport Grand Hotel. The electric evening featured former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton and former *Wall Street Journal* editorial board member and economist Stephen Moore, and honored Hon. Doc Hastings with WPC's Champion of Freedom award.

Moore spoke of the upcoming presidential election, the economic plans of the candidates, and about the importance of research organizations like WPC at the state level.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Bolton took attendees on a tour of the hot spots of the world and posed the question "do you think we're safer in the world when we're strong, and assertive in support of our interests and friends, or do you think we're better off being weak?"

And in Bellevue, more than 1,500 attendees gathered for the Annual Dinner and Young Professionals event to hear from American Center for Law and Justice Chief Counsel and bestselling author Jay Sekulow and New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez and honor Rainer Scholars with WPC's annual Champion of Freedom award.

When Jay Sekulow addressed the crowd he encouraged the attendees to continue to work on ensuring charter schools remain in Washington state., "I want to thank the Washington Policy Center for the great work you're doing.. That you continue to do. Fight for those charter schools. You know your Supreme Court here doesn't have a particularly great record. Believe me, I know first-hand. So, fight hard."

Governor Susana Martinez delivered a message of hope for the future as she shared some of her insights of governing New Mexico. She praised Washington Policy Center, saying "Every year, the Washington Policy Center brings together some of the brightest minds, those who are truly invested in moving our nation forward through sound, reasonable policy changes."



























East of the 📈

CASCADES

Washington's close-up on Jeopardy!; Spokane voters reject 'Worker Bill of Rights'

If you're a contestant on *Jeopardy*!, you must answer in the form of question. But an answer in a recent *Double Jeopardy*! just led to more questions.

The answer: "Washington leads all states by getting 76% of its electricity from this renewable method."

The correct question, of course: "What is hydropower?"

The problem: Washington state law doesn't recognize our clean, renewable hydropower as a clean, renewable power source.

In 2006, Washington voters passed Initiative 937, the Energy Independence Act, requiring utilities in Washington to increase conservation and to get 15% of their power from qualifying renewable energy sources by the year 2020.

In addition to imposing conservation and renewable energy requirements, Initiative 937 narrowly defined which energy sources count as renewable. Although the initiative recognizes water as a renewable resource, it limits the amount of hydroelectric power that utilities can count as renewable.

WPC has long recommended that the definition of "renewable energy" under the Initiative 937 law be broadened to include hydroelectric and other noncarbon sources, so that all renewable sources are equally recognized as helping the environment. Such a change would reduce costs for power customers and promote additional technologies that reduce carbon emissions.

Even *Jeopardy*! researchers know hydropower is a clean, renewable power source.

For our state, it's an answer that shouldn't be a question.



Spokane voters again reject worker "Bill of Rights"

The November election produced familiar results in Spokane, as city voters for the third time defeated a sweeping "Community/Worker Bill of Rights" measure.

The proposal, backed by a group called "Envision Spokane," would have imposed new requirements on local small businesses and local government and would have dramatically increased costs for taxpayers.

The measure included a vague "family wage" formula that would have potentially increased Spokane's minimum wage to the highest in the nation. WPC's analysis showed the rate to be as high as \$28.11 per hour. Also included in the costly "Worker Bill of Rights" measure - redundant provisions on equal pay, requiring employers to prove "cause" to lay off any employee and stripping rights from anyone forming a corporation to start a business.

Taken together, WPC's research found the "Worker Bill of Rights" provisions would have made Spokane the most unfriendly city for small businesses in the state. Our publications and analysis were featured on Spokane radio and TV stations, as well as in *The Spokesman-Review*, which encouraged voters to oppose the measure.

In the end, voters again agreed with WPC that the "Bill of Rights" would increase costs for local businesses and cut job opportunities for youth and low-income residents of Spokane. More than 60% of voters rejected it. WPC's

on college campuses

THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

WPC understands that investing in the nextgeneration is critical to our state's future. Providing young people with the necessary tools now will ensure that the free-market solutions WPC is making today will be carried on for generations to come.

WPC Young Professionals college clubs at University of Washington, Washington State University and Seattle University are a resource for students to gain access to WPC's factbased, public policy research. Students engage in high quality events with top business and policy leaders and network with other students interested in public policy to develop into the leaders of tomorrow.

These are just some of the snapshots of the year's events on the three campuses. Students at UW, SU and WSU heard from special guests speakers including State Senate Majority Leader Mark Schoesler, former Eastern Washington Congressman George Nethercutt, State Senator Andy Hill and WPC board of directors Mark Pinkowski and Matt McIlwain. POLICY CENTER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS @UW Educating, engaging, empowering





To get involved and learn more about sponsorship opportunities visit www.washingtonpolicy.org/youngprofessionals



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