



COALITION OF
WASHINGTON
BUSINESS
ORGANIZATIONS
(COWBO)

1414 CHERRY ST SE
OLYMPIA, WA 98501
360-943-1600
360-943-5811 FAX

MEMBERS

AEA

ASSOCIATION OF
WASHINGTON BUSINESS

ASSOCIATED GENERAL
CONTRACTORS OF WA

INDEPENDENT BUSINESS
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

WASHINGTON
ASSOCIATION OF
REALTORS

WASHINGTON BANKERS
ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON FARM
BUREAU

WASHINGTON FOOD
INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON FOREST
PROTECTION
ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON
RESTAURANT
ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON RETAIL
ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON
ROUNDTABLE

WESTERN STATES
PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

Coalition of Washington Business Organizations (COWBO)

January 25, 2006

Line 1
Line 2
Line 3
Line 4

Dear Representative:

We, the members of the Coalition of Washington Business Organizations (COWBO), are contacting you to let you know that we continue our efforts to make our state more competitive so we have a vibrant economy which invites individuals and employers to reinvest, encourages new businesses to locate in Washington and provides jobs and careers for our families and friends. We are committed to a state with sound environmental policies, safe workplaces and transportation networks. A state that educates our children and adults so they can compete in today's global economy, has common sense regulations which are easily understood and administered, and lowers overall costs of doing business.

We recognize your job as elected officials is not easy and there are difficult and sometimes agonizing choices. We also understand first hand that it is the private sector which produces a substantial amount of the revenue needed to run our schools, colleges and universities, for fire, police and emergency services, and to operate our government at the federal, state and local levels.

Therefore, as you consider difficult issues during the 2006 Legislative session, we ask you to do so remembering that encouraging the private sector to be successful will ultimately make our state prosperous and fill out state coffers with the revenues needed to support essential government services. We submit our requests in the context of our firm belief in the fiscal disciplines of the Priorities of Government which we urge you to embrace in a sustainable manner.

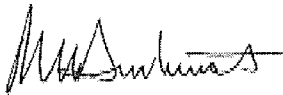
In specific, we'd ask you to do the following:

- Control health care costs by putting a moratorium on new mandates, reforming our medical malpractice laws, improving the delivery of medical technologies and encouraging marketplace competition;
- Support an unemployment system that taxes employers fairly, maintains the goals of 2003 reforms and keeps Washington competitive.
- Reform our workers compensation system to lower costs while insuring that people are treated efficiently, fairly and returned to employment;
- Put as much of the \$1.4 billion surplus revenue into reserves for the 2007-09 budget cycle and start the process toward establishing a constitutionally protected rainy day fund;
- Continue your efforts to reduce government red tape and streamline regulations ensuring we eliminate cumbersome, expensive and overlapping rules;

- Stabilize and lower the cost of doing business by not increasing taxes and most fees or by raiding dedicated accounts which employers pay into for specific purposes;
- Continue efforts to improve our state's transportation network and infrastructure with appropriate accountability;
- Find ways to provide abundant energy which is cost effective, reliable and produced by the private sector;
- Address the disparities in the state's minimum wage;
- Stay the course on high standards for K-12 education; and
- Ensure the balance between private property rights and public health and safety.

Thank you for your consideration and support and we stand ready to assist you in our joint efforts to make Washington a more competitive place for our families not only for the short term, but well into the future.

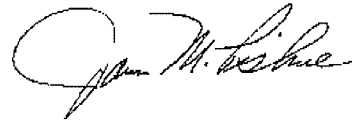
Sincerely,



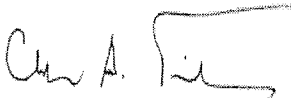
Roland Dewhurst
Associated General
Contractors



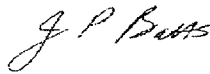
Don C. Brunell
Association of
Washington Business



Jim Pishue
Washington
Bankers Association



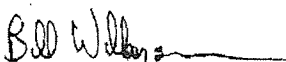
Clifton Finch
Washington Food
Industry Association



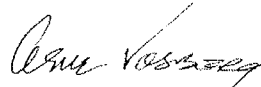
Pat Batts
Washington
Farm Bureau



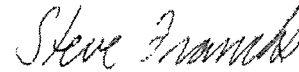
Jan Teague
Washington
Retail Association



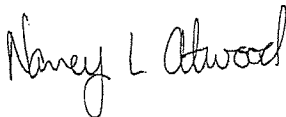
Bill Wilkerson
Washington Forest
Protection Association



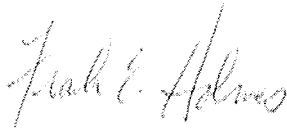
Gene Vosberg
Washington Restaurant
Association



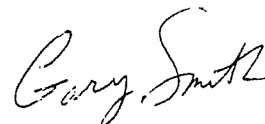
Steve Francks
Washington Realtors
Association



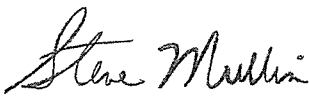
Nancy Atwood
AeA – Washington
Council



Frank Holmes
Western States
Petroleum Association



Gary Smith
Independent Business
Association



Steve Mullin
Washington Roundtable



Carolyn Logue
National Federation of
Independent Business