
From: Amy Grotefendt [agrotefendt@enviroissues.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 4:40 PM
To: Paananen, Ron; Van Ness, Kristy (Consultant)
Subject: FW: Greater Seattle Chamber's Government Action Update: April 21, 2009

See the first note about the viaduct bill.

From: Alicia Graham [mailto:aliciag@seattlechamber.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 4:27 PM
To: Alicia Graham
Subject: Greater Seattle Chamber's Government Action Update: April 21, 2009

Action Alert: The Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative needs your support!

The Bored Tunnel bill, [ESSB 5768](#), has not yet reached the House floor and a number of difficult amendments have been offered. **This is a tenuous situation, and your help is needed: please [contact your legislators](#) today and urge them to approve the bill in the House and return it to the Senate.**

Need more information? Read [frequently asked questions](#) or see the [broad coalition of regional and statewide supporters](#) or contact [Charles Knutson](#) with any questions.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Meet the candidates: Alki Foundation Forum, Thursday, May 7

City Councilmember Richard Conlin today joined the full field of candidates lined up for the Alki Foundation's forum. The May 7 breakfast features candidates in contested races for city council, mayor, county executive and port commission. See the full participant list and registration details at www.seattlechamber.com/alki.

Workshop: Stop Turning Away Buyers Due to Low Credit Scores (Source: MBA of King & Snohomish Counties)

The Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties will host a [luncheon program](#) on Tuesday, May 5 about how builders can increase their income by decreasing their turndown ratio. Pre-registration is required.

STATE OF WASHINGTON

House legislation designates toll corridor on SR 520, caps total project cost

House members passed [SHB 2211](#) by a 52 to 46 vote last week, which designates a toll corridor on SR 520 and allows variable tolling. The bill also caps the total cost of the replacement project at \$4.6 billion, of which the westside projects cannot exceed \$2 billion and the eastside projects cannot exceed \$800 million. According to the legislation, \$1.7 billion can be raised through tolls.

Employment Security Department: Unemployment tax rates will increase (Source: AWB)

In an [April 20 memo](#) to AWB, the state's Employment Security Department said amendments to Substitute Senate Bill 5963 will increase unemployment tax rates in coming years. You can see specifically how the House changes would impact employers and small businesses in particular, in a [new alert](#) from AWB.

The Chamber has taken a lead role in an [open letter](#) sent to Washington State Senators, now signed by 100-plus organizations, businesses, and individuals from across the state. If you share their concerns, please contact members of the [Washington State Senate](#). Tell them that [SSB 5963](#), as amended in the House, jeopardizes businesses and the jobs they provide. Ask them to insist on the [bill they passed](#) and send that to Gov. Gregoire.

AWB President outlines impacts of aerospace sector, warns of state's waning competitiveness

(Source: AWB)

AWB President Don Brunell released a [statement](#) detailing the economic impact of Boeing and the aerospace industry in general on Washington state. Brunell pointed to a recent study by Deloitte that spotlighted weaknesses in the state's business climate and cautioned that current legislative efforts will likely drive Boeing and other companies to relocate.

CITY OF SEATTLE

Chamber Public Affairs Council discusses city budget, housing levy

City Council President Richard Conlin spoke to the Chamber's Public Affairs Council today about the city budget and stated his interest in continued cooperation between the city and the Chamber in its economic recovery dialogues. The meeting also included an update on the coming Housing Levy proposal, which the Chamber continues to monitor.

Mayor announces \$13.3 million in budget cuts

Facing a budget shortfall nearing \$43 million, Mayor Greg Nickels [released plans](#) to cut \$13.3 million from the 2009 budget. The [cuts](#) amount to a 1.5% reduction in general fund spending this year, and include 59 layoffs.

Upcoming meetings of interest

All meetings will be held in Council Chambers (600 4th Ave, 2nd Floor)

Planning, Land Use & Neighborhoods Committee Meeting, Wed., April 22 at 9:30 a.m.

The committee will hear public comment on [CB 116479](#), which proposes changes to the downtown commercial bonus program.

Environment, Energy Management & Utilities Committee, Wed., April 22 at 12:00 p.m.

In honor of Earth Day, the committee will [host](#) a special screening of *A Sense of Wonder*, a film about environmentalist Rachel Carson.

Finance & Budget Committee, Wed. April 22 at 5:30 p.m.

The committee will hold a [public hearing](#) on [proposed cuts](#) to the city's 2009 general fund budget.

Committee of the Whole, Fri., April 24 at 2:00 p.m.

The committee will be [briefed](#) on housing market indicators by several experts in preparation for receipt and review of Mayor Nickels' housing levy renewal proposal.

KING COUNTY

Sims nomination to come before Senate committee on Thursday

The Senate Banking Committee will consider Executive Ron Sims' nomination for Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development at a hearing on Thursday, April 23. Confirmation by the full Senate is expected the following week.

This report is prepared by Chamber Public Affairs staff. Please contact George Allen at 206.389.7268 or at georgea@seattlechamber.com with any questions or comments.

Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce: Fueling a Job-Growing Economy