
From: Sturdevant, Ted (ECY)
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 5:44 PM
To: Nichols, Bob (GOV); Dicks, David (PSP)
Cc: Grayum, Michael; Terwilleger, Karen (ECY)
Subject: Re: Tripling hazardous substance tax would boost gas prices

These guys are good at disguising their right wing propoganda bullshit as objective policy analysis. Always careful to not sound like what they are.

Several points that could be rebutted. They use the 14m pounds number, which is the low end of the range, which is something like 14-94m. Good notice of likely talking points from opponents. We're ready.

From: Nichols, Bob (GOV)
To: Dicks, David (PSP); Sturdevant, Ted (ECY)
Cc: Grayum, Michael; Terwilleger, Karen (ECY)
Sent: Thu Feb 25 17:24:35 2010
Subject: FW: Tripling hazardous substance tax would boost gas prices
Have you seen? Pull up the full memo – it's a fast read.

It's not so much about the price at the pump as it is the underlying Ecology/PSP rationale for this major storm water push.

From: Arnold-Williams, Robin (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 4:57 PM
To: Phillips, Keith (GOV); Nichols, Bob (GOV)
Subject: FW: Tripling hazardous substance tax would boost gas prices

FYI

From: Washington Policy Center [<mailto:communications@washingtonpolicy.org>]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 3:51 PM
To: Washington Policy Center
Subject: Tripling hazardous substance tax would boost gas prices



LEGISLATIVE MEMO

Tripling Hazardous Substance Tax Would Boost Gas Prices

New taxes not needed to protect Puget Sound

by Brandon Houskeeper, Policy Analyst
February 2010

The Washington legislature is considering a tax increase intended to support the state's effort to protect and restore one of the Washington's most notable natural resources, the Puget Sound and other state waterways. The state would collect new revenues by increasing the tax rate on hazardous substances imported into Washington. This would increase gas prices by four to six cents per gallon.

While the tax is being sold as part of Puget Sound cleanup, lawmakers in Olympia plan to spend the collected revenue to pay for other government services not related to environmental health. The legislature did something similar last year, when they diverted more than \$100 million away from Puget Sound priorities.

Hazardous substances covered by the tax increase include petroleum products, pesticides, and other everyday household items. Many of these products contain chemicals that have been identified as pollutants found in stormwater runoff, that eventually enter the waters of the Puget Sound. Proponents of the tax increase claim that it would raise as much as \$150 million annually to support water quality enhancement activities throughout the state.

The proposed tax increase would be added to the hundreds of millions of dollars already collected and spent by government officials on Puget Sound cleanup. However, the need for additional funding is based on a false accounting of current funding and misleading science that has been recalculated since adoption of the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda.

Before policymakers increase taxes on consumers, they should understand how current resources are being spent, as well as the latest science being used by proponents to support their claims for additional funding.

[Read the full Legislative Memo online here](#)

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