



May 16 Washington REP Executive Committee Meeting – You’re Invited!

A reminder that the next meeting of the executive committee of the Washington State Chapter of REP will be held at the **Inn at Gig Harbor** on **Friday, May 16** at 3 PM. All REP members and those interested in possibly becoming REP members are welcome to attend.

The Ex-Com meeting is being held in conjunction with the annual Cascade Conference of Mainstream Republicans of Washington (<http://www.washingtonmainstream.org>), which you’re also invited to attend. The first panel discussion of the conference on Saturday, May 17, will feature REP National Policy Director Jim DiPeso squaring off against Christopher Horner, Senior Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, on the topic “What Should States Be Doing About Climate Change”. Since Horner is one of the most outspoken global warming skeptics, this should be a great discussion! Also on the panel will be Dr. Mark Stoelinga of the Atmospheric Sciences department at the University of Washington, one of our state’s experts on the impacts of global warming. The panel will be moderated by REP WA Ex-Com member Toby Nixon. The Cascade Conference features a number of great speakers including Dino Rossi, Sam Reed, Doug Sutherland, Terry Bergeson, Justice Charles Johnson, Ralph Munro, and others, plus panel discussions on gay rights and immigration, and the annual panel of media pundits from around the state.

May 29-31 State Republican Convention in Spokane

Kudos to Ed Bustamante for getting the REP plank on Hanford Cleanup adopted by the Clark County Republicans as part of their county platform! It was a real cliff hanger, which he can tell us about at the May gathering in Gig Harbor as well as at the State Convention.

WA REP has rented a booth at the Convention. Now we need people to “person” it and help interest convention delegates in joining REP! We’ll have brochures and information to hand out, and talking points for those working in the booth. This is a perfect time for you to get involved. Whether or not you take a shift, please tell me you’re coming (RWBatty@Hughes.net) so we can arrange to get together with other REPs.

Cap and Trade

The negative impacts of climate change are seen by the great majority of the scientific community and the general public as caused in considerable part by human activity. A major agent of this climate change is the increase in CO₂ as a result of the burning of fossil fuels. One strategy to limit CO₂ emissions is to impose a carbon tax. These taxes are both politically unpopular and are often passed on to consumers by the polluting industries or utilities, and thus they do not assure greenhouse gases will decrease. A more innovative approach is the “cap and trade” system strongly endorsed by GOP Presidential candidate John McCain, several

governors, including California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger , and in the US Senate bill authored by John Warner (R-VA) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT). Republicans in our State Legislature with good environmental credentials have lauded cap and trade as a sound “Republican” means of approaching the climate change problem. In this, an absolute cap on total permissible CO2 emissions, particularly from such point sources as electric utilities and major industries, would be established and could be decreased over time, in effect guaranteeing a reduction in CO2.

An appealing aspect of cap and trade is that economic market forces are utilized to reduce greenhouse gasses over time in a cost-effective and flexible manner. Among the best summations of how this can work is a piece found on the net done by the Union of Concerned Scientists. While cap and trade is but a partial answer to climate change and other air pollution issues, it is a good partial answer that should resonate with Republicans who practice our long tradition of concern for the environment. The opponents, from disparate corners of the body politic, are the Usual Suspects: those who prefer government mandates to allowing market forces to accomplish good end results, and those who bewail the potential problems associated with such a system and that it “won’t do the entire job fast enough”. From another corner are those who don’t want significant environmental limits or are in denial that human activities impact climate change or that climate change is a problem. This group includes some who are hostile to or contemptuous of even benign and voluntary conservation! Tragically, some of these people are falsely identified as “conservatives”. But conservation, not pollution, is truly conservative.

The position of REP nationally is that negative climate change is a problem at least in part human-induced and that cap and trade systems are among reasonable means to deal with that problem.

John McCain

We hear a green GOP caucus in Congress has re-emerged, and we think REP may have a more welcome role in national politics at this point.

Running for Office

Since our last newsletter, our own Toby Nixon announced that he is once again running for State Representative for the 45th district in northeast King County. His web site is www.tobynixon.com.

Best regards,

Bob Batty

Chapter President

rbatty@hughes.net