



Newsletter of the Washington State Chapter of Republicans for Environmental Protection – www.repwa.org May, 2010

I. WA-REP PARTICIPATES IN WASHINGTON'S ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY DAY

The Washington state chapter of Republicans for Environmental Protection was again represented at the annual Environmental Lobby Day (ELD) at the Capitol in Olympia on January 26. REP-WA Executive Committee members Jan Brucker and Lloyd Flem, who candidly identified themselves as Republicans, were well-received by the scores of other Green participants, who tended to be young, from Seattle, and stronger Democrat in orientation. Brucker and Flem delighted in cordially educating the other participants that America's greatest conservationist president and Washington's strongest environmentalist governor were Republicans, Teddy Roosevelt and Dan Evans, of course.

Most of the ELD attendees met with their home districts' legislators and had several pre-chosen issues to discuss. Jan and Lloyd were not opposed to those issues (one of which, mandating the elimination of a harmful chemical from plastic baby bottles, passed overwhelmingly, with strong Republican support), but, like last year, thought it more productive to meet with Republican legislators with relatively good records on environmental issues, praise their support for such positions, and let them know that REP-WA thanks them for maintaining the long tradition of conservation and reasonable environmental protection within the GOP.

At most meetings, REP-WA's leadership on the important environmental issue of Hanford cleanup (which most other green groups acknowledge is important, but have not engaged for the past few years) was explained to our legislators. Emphasized was REP's favorable view of nuclear energy production, as long as waste disposal safeguards are ensured, along with our support for other clean energy initiatives.

The meetings were all candid, relaxed, and very cordial. It appeared these green Republicans, were pleased to be in the presence of fellow GOP people who applauded their taking positions that, unfortunately, some Republicans have in recent years strayed from.

Jan and Lloyd advised fellow REP members and others who share these views to acknowledge and praise the good efforts of those elected Republicans who take the sometimes courageous positions of supporting sound conservationist views when such positions are condemned from some self-styled and inaccurately called "conservative" talk radio and Fox TV pundits.

Republican legislators visited were Representatives Tom Campbell, Jay Rodne, Maureen Walsh, Skip Priest and Senators Mike Carrell and Dan Swecker. Lloyd had previously met with Rep. Glenn Anderson, whose green record has also been traditionally good.

And if you're looking for answers to frequently-asked questions on climate change see the www.rep.org website. (Despite skepticism of some and hostility of a few prominent Republican and "conservative" voices, REP maintains that some negative climate change is brought about by human activities.) See Jim's comments below.

II. JIM DIPESO ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Hello, this is Jim DiPeso. Climate change is a very complex topic from both science and public policy perspectives. We have carefully and dispassionately reviewed the science and are convinced that the preponderance of the evidence shows that human activities, chiefly carbon emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels, are at least partly responsible for our changing climate. We believe that prudent and economically balanced measures to reduce carbon emissions are warranted in order to reduce the risks associated with climate change, including coastal flooding and reduced snowpack. It's important to note that reducing such emissions would have beneficial spin-off impacts, including reduced dependence on oil from dangerous regions of the world, less air pollution, and development of new industries based on advanced energy technologies. Since Washington is a hotbed of intellectual capital and entrepreneurship, we can expect our state to be an attractive location for new energy companies. If you did not have the opportunity to participate in the REP National Teleconference on this issue, it is now posted on the national website (www.Rep.org) and I highly recommend that you review it to update your knowledge on this important issue.

III. HANFORD ENVIROMENTAL INPUT (EIS) COMMENTS LETTER

WA-REP'S comments letter on the EIS was mailed to DOE on March 12, 2010. Bob Batty is forming a task force to follow-up on that letter and monitor other Hanford issues so please contact him at the E-mail address below if you would like to participate. The letter is posted on the National Website on the Washington Chapter page for your review.

IV. WELCOME YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

In its February meeting, your WA-REP Executive Committee elected Jan Brucker to replace outgoing president Bob Batty who will now be forming a task force to focus on the Hanford cleanup issue. Her E-mail is JanBrucker@aol.com and I am sure she would welcome your input on the future direction of WA-REP. As Jan was formerly vice president, Lunell Haught has been elected to take that position to keep a full slate of chapter officers in place. If you are interested in a position on the Ex-Com, please contact Jan.

Best regards,

Bob Batty

Chapter Immediate Past President

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