

Brief 2019 Legislature Forecast

Washington State: Initiative 1631 failed but like a bad penny, the subject of a carbon tax is likely to show up once again. Expected during this next session may be a 100 percent renewable energy requirement by the year 2040 and for some type of a low carbon fuel standard which will have significant effects on transportation costs. In addition, the Puget sound starving orca claim will drive recommendations to benefit them which may include the removal of the four Snake River dams, another significant impact on transportation for the state. We may further expect increased environmental requirements to safe guard surface and ground water without agricultural exemptions.

Oregon State: The legislature begins its long session on January 22nd and concludes on June 30th. The Joint committee on Carbon reduction will be re-instated during the 2019 session. We should expect a draft Committee Bill to be released in January with a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below the 1990 bench mark by the year 2050. Milestones yet to be determined such as to how fast the reduction occurs, and what would be an acceptable limit by 2035. Some good news is that Brain Clem, supported by FWAA, will Chair the Agriculture and Land Use Committee.

Idaho: Idaho's legislative session starts on Monday, January 7th with new legislators and a new governor. No carbon taxes mentioned. The State will need to correct an error created by a policy change made by the tax commission last June pertaining to the employee withholding formula. The change lessened the amount withheld. A single notice was provided to employers and most employees did not review their withholding. The net result is that even with one of the fastest growing economies in the nation, Idaho's budget will be more than \$50 million behind in revenue projections for FY2019. Given the state must pass a balanced budget, this leaves very little room for any changes or increases for the FY2020 budget. The state anticipates the revenues coming in around the April 15 filing deadline, after the anticipated adjournment of the legislature.

Utah: The 2019 session runs from January 28th through March 14th. No carbon or increased transportation tax bill has been listed to date. Some continued discussion regarding the elimination of the business personal property tax but ways must be developed to off-set the revenue loss to counties who provide services.

Nevada: The Nevada legislature will begin on February 4th. In a recent search of over 400 Bills, no bills were found to have content regarding carbon. No bills currently have listed changes to agriculture or transportation.

- Jim Fitzgerald

The New Year Brings New Opportunities

Those opportunities will reside at the January 9th and 10th Far West Conference at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho. Join us for the opening general session at 1:00 PM in the fine Arts Auditorium and get the "big picture" from Chris Novak, CEO for CropLife out of Washington DC.

Dig into the agronomic tracts learning more about relevant topics from a mixture of industry and public and private interests.

A Reminder to Make Comments Prior to January 12th

Ammonium Sulfate should not be listed on the Toxic Air Pollutant list in Washington State.

That is the message that needs to be given to the Washington State Department of Ecology during their rule making process which is regulated under Chapter 173-460 WAC.

It is important that each of our members send an email asking for the removal of ammonium sulfate from the TAP list. The data used in the California study (the basis for the inclusion) was reviewed in error by DOE and the error should be corrected. Find more information provided by FWAA [here](#).

Your remarks sent as a company representative or as a concerned individual who is knowledgeable and works within the industry should be sent to:

Elena Guilfoil: egui461@ECY.WA.GOV

or call her at: (360) 407-6855

Ammonium Sulfate should not be included in our industry's air quality permit. Our members should not have to bear an increased cost and added administrative time for the permit or be subjected to an audit. This was not the intention of the Clean Air Act and we should request that the error is corrected by removing AS from the TAP list. Please make certain you make contact prior to January 12th and by working together, we can get this accomplished.

- Jim Fitzgerald



The FWAA office will be closed from Tuesday, Jan. 8th until Friday, Jan. 11th for the conference.

See the agenda and see who is already registered and attending by going to www.fwaa.org and click on "events". Within the registration page, you can click on the agenda and/or the attendees.

The evening of the 9th we will gather at the private club known as the Turf where you can use your beverage ticket, consume some light food and participate in an auction full of items your certain to need which were donated by various members. There is also a drawing for a Traeger barbeque which is certain to improve your cooking skills. Most people group up for a dinner out on the town but call it a night in time to put in a full day on Thursday the 10th attending their pick of 4 concurrent tracts where you can meet your continuing educational requirements for your state applicators license and your Certified Crop Adviser requirements.

Credits aside, it's the knowledge that you need and the value it gives you as a crop adviser when providing the best service and products to your customers. It's an opportunity you won't want to miss so register now and we will look forward toward seeing you next week.

- Jim Fitzgerald