

No on 1631

Cliff Mass
Atmospheric Scientist

Bottom Line

If you care about the environment...

If you worry about global warming..

If you are concerned about wildfires and smoke

If you value representative democracy

And if you worry about our regressive tax system.

You must vote NO on I-1631



I-1631 is

- Ineffective
- Poorly written
- Highly partisan
- At odds with representative democracy
- Highly regressive
- Displaces the potential for much better approaches.

My Background

- Spent my career studying the weather and climate of our region
- Have worked to make this information usable to a wide variety of stakeholders
- Strong supporter of I-732
- Overseeing the most advanced system yet to forecast the future climate of our region.
- NO relationship with oil companies!

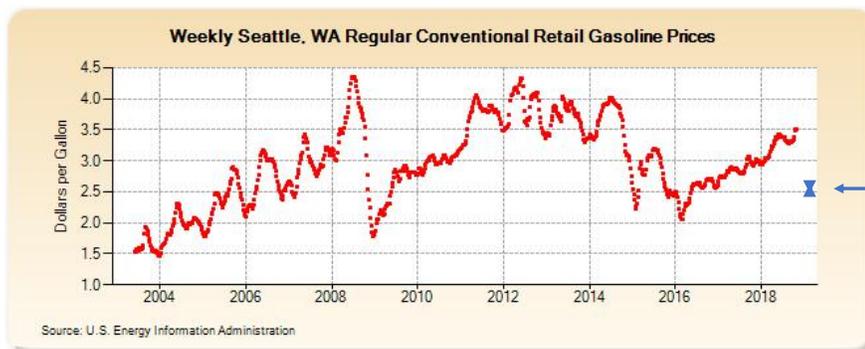


Some Problems with I-1631



The Carbon Fee/Tax Is Too Low

- Starts at approximately 14 cents per gallon
- Much less than I-732
- In the noise level of normal variability
- **Would result in little reduction in gasoline use.**



Makes WA Tax System Even More Regressive

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Jon Talton / Columnist 

Washington suffers most regressive tax system in U.S.

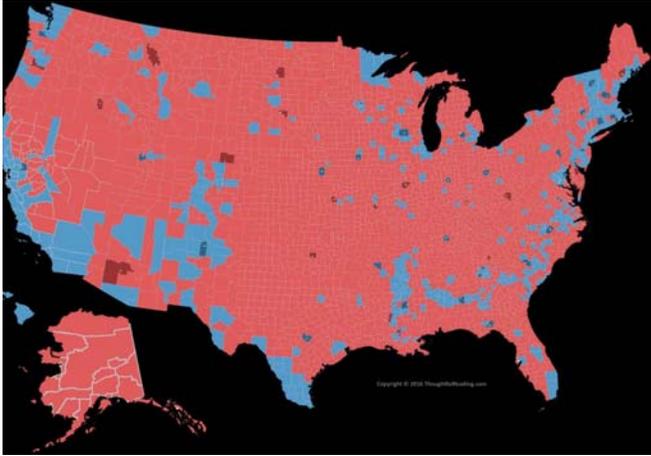
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Low-Income Working People Are Taxed More Heavily as % of Income

- Particularly burdensome for working poor that commute long distances to work
- Large portions of WA labor movement is against 1631.
- The initiative offers ineffective sweeteners, like heating rebates, weatherization and transit spending—which are already in place.
- In contrast, revenue-neutral carbon fees can avoid being regressive.



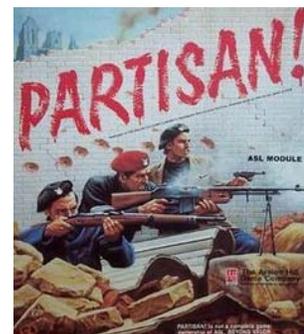
I-1632 is Hyper-Partisan and Can Not Serve As a Model for the Nation



- WA State is a small part of the U.S
- Only an initiative that can spread to the rest of the nation will make a difference

A Partisan Effort

- Created by left-leaning “progressive”, social justice, native American, and some labor groups.
- No moderate, conservative, or Republican buy-in
- Controlling board would be selected by an activist Democratic governor
- No way it can serve as a model that could be used in most of the nation.
- In contrast, a revenue-neutral carbon tax could be bi-partisan.



At Odds With Representative Democracy

- Gives enormous power to spend billions of dollars to an unelected board of 15 (only commissioner of public lands is elected).
- No precedent in WA State of giving such huge policy and financial control to non-elected folks.
- Substantial amounts of money go to special interest groups pushing the initiative (e.g., 10% goes to the Tribes, 35% to environmental justice, \$50 million to help displaced labor, etc.)



No concrete plans on how to use the funds
No concrete milestones for what must be achieved
Failure to meet soft targets results in more money

- **Highly likely that most of the funds will be used on small, politically popular, projects.**
- **No prioritization of large blocks of funds for critical needs.**

Critical Needs

Hundreds of millions or billions needed to fix our east-side forests.



Critical Needs

- **Billions to build reservoir capacity as snowpack is lost**



Critical Needs

- Billions for speeding up Puget Sound light rail by ten years, adding additional rail service, establishing marine commuting routes



I-1631 will support large numbers of projects of marginal value

- Mo McBroom, 1631 spokeswoman, talked energetically about such projects...such as a solar array on top of the foodbank in Longview!



I-1631 Leadership Has Been Highly Deceptive and Untruthful to WA Citizens

- Claim "big polluters will pay" and oil companies will cover the costs.
- A total fabrication and completely untrue.

Here are the facts:

I-1631 places a fee on the state's largest polluters—like big oil companies. The oil industry would pay the pollution fee. They can afford to pay this fee without raising prices on you. We do our fair share to protect our health and communities—so should Big Oil.

From a 1631 mail piece

1631 Supporters Claim That They Will Take Care of Wildfires and Smoke!

1631 does not dedicate the funds to do this.



NatureConservancy WA
@Conserve_WA

Follow



Catastrophic wildfires unleash a massive amount of unhealthy smoke that affects us all. Initiative 1631 will change that:

bit.ly/2QUa1hM

Vote yes.

The whole initiative is couched in terms of clean air and clean water.
No plan to clean either, and no dedication of the massive funds to do so.



If passed, I-1631 will prevent much more viable alternatives. Some examples:

- A revenue-neutral carbon tax, that would more strongly discourage use of carbon fuels and that could be bi-partisan and spread throughout the nation.
- A carbon tax/fee that would use some of the funds for low-income tax credits and hardwire critical resilience/adaptation needs (like fixing the forests).

***‘A Conservative Climate Solution’:
Republican Group Calls for Carbon Tax***

Question:

Can you trust a group that is so deceptive to spend billions of dollars of public funds, with no concrete plans, and no real requirements that must be fulfilled?

The Answer is Clearly No

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1631