



# Building Industry Files Workers' Comp Initiative

## Changes Seen for Legislature

Workers' Compensation reform was ignored by a Democrat-controlled Legislature this last session (they wouldn't even give it a hearing). As a result, BIAW filed I-1082 to allow private insurance companies to compete with the Department of Labor & Industries' (L&I) monopoly in selling industrial insurance to businesses. I-1082 is modeled on the successful system in Oregon.

Washington is one of only four states with a government monopoly on workers' comp insurance coverage and management of injured worker claims.

L&I admits we have the highest time-loss rate of any state. The average number of days an injured worker spends off the job collecting benefits has increased 40 percent in recent years to 270 days. The national time loss average is 90 days (Oregon boasts an average of just 70 days).

Washington also boasts one of the highest pension rates for an injured worker who can never return to work and will collect a benefit check for life. In 2007 and 2008 Washington pensioned out 3,600 workers while Oregon pensioned out only 24.

Rates paid by Oregon businesses decreased 17.6 percent since 2000 and Washington's increased 54 percent. State Auditor Brian Sonntag said the state will have to increase taxes paid by businesses another 33 percent for the system to remain solvent.

If you would like to help in this effort by getting customers, vendors, employees to sign the I-1082 contact: Trent Matson, P.O. Box 1909, Olympia, WA 98501, Phone: 360-352-7800, [trentm@biaw.com](mailto:trentm@biaw.com)

As the Legislative session drew to a close in March, several Senate and House members stated their intent not to be back next year.

State Senator Dale Brandland, a Republican who represents the 42nd District, has announced his decision to retire from the Senate. He has held the seat since being elected in 2002.

The 42nd Legislative District encompasses most of Whatcom County. It includes northern Bellingham plus all of Whatcom's other incorporated cities: Lynden, Ferndale, Blaine, Everson, Sumas, Deming, and Nooksack.

The district's two Representatives are Doug Ericksen and Kelli Linville. Linville is a senior member of the House Democratic caucus; she currently chairs the House Appropriations Committee. She now has the option of running for the position Brandland is vacating; but if she does, House Speaker Frank Chopp would need to find a viable candidate who can hold the chairman's seat. Rep. Ericksen, a sixth-term Republican, has indicated he will be seeking the Senate seat.

Sen Bob McCaslin's return

to the Senate following heart surgery is uncertain. McCaslin, R-4, Spokane Valley, had hoped to make it through session before the operation; however, he was experiencing difficulties and had to be hospitalized during the session. McCaslin has been ranking minority member on Judiciary and a member of the Economy Trade Committee.

Sen Darlene Fairley, D-32 Lake Forest Park, Chair of Government Operations and Elections has decided to step down after 16 years saying it's no longer fun.

In a surprise announcement at Sine Die, Rep. Lynn Kessler,



D-24, Majority Leader in the House said she is retiring and will not seek a 10th term. She has served as Speaker



Frank Chopp's second in command for many years.

Rep. Mark Ericks, D-1 representative since 2005, will be appointed to a U.S. Marshal position and leave the Legislature. He was previously Bothell Police Chief for 12 years. He has been



## Other Changes...

*Cont. from Page 2*

serving on House Finance and is vice chair of Ways & Means Committee. District 1, north-east King County and south Snohomish County, which includes Bothell, Maltby, Mountlake Terrace, Brier and parts of Lynnwood and Edmonds, will be losing both its Representatives.



Rep. Al O'Brien, D-1, also will be leaving the legislature after 14 years. He is a retired Seattle Police sergeant and served five years on the Mountlake Terrace City Council. He is vice chair of the Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee.



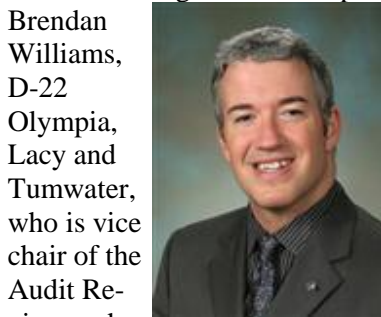
Rep. Dave Quall, D-40, Skagit, Whatcom and Island counties will be retiring after 18 years. A retired teacher, counselor and coach, he is chairman of the House Education Committee. Mount Vernon Democrat Thomas Boucher, a member of U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen's district staff, has announced he is seeking the 40th Legislative District seat being vacated by Quall.



Rep. Alex Wood, D-3 Spokane, a former broadcast journalist and radio and television talk show host, will retire after his seventh term in the House of Representatives. He has served as vice chair of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.



Rep. Deb Wallace, D-17 in Clark County, former Director of Business Expansion for the Columbia River Economic Development Council and current Chair of the House Higher Education Committee, has stated her intent to not run for re-election after eight years in the Legislature.



Also leaving office is Rep. Brendan Williams, D-22 Olympia, Lacy and Tumwater, who is vice chair of the Audit Review and Oversight Committee as well as a member of Commerce & Labor. Williams is one of only five legislators with a 100% scorecard from the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. An attorney, business consultant in private practice and past executive director of the Washington Health Care Association,

he says he's considering a run for the state Supreme Court.

Rep. Dan Roach, R-31 Bonney Lake, will be leaving the House to run for Pierce County Council. Replacing him as ranking Republican on the House



Transportation Committee will be 12<sup>th</sup> District Rep. Mike Armstrong. Armstrong spent 21 years with WSDOT and has been in the Legislature for ten years... eight on the Transportation Committee.

At the Federal level, Congressman Brian Baird, 3rd Congressional District Representative for six terms, will be retiring and has endorsed former Democratic legislator and State Capitol figure Denny Heck to take his place. State Rep. Jaime Herrera, R-18, has stated her intent to vie for the congressional seat, as well as Sen. Craig Pride-more, D-49 Vancouver.



### Washington Association of Neighborhood Stores

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Vancouver, WA 98668  
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Email: tkbentler@comcast.net

# Sheff Takes Over Retro Program

Bobbie Sheff, Payroll and Human Resources Manager for Wilson Oil, has taken over the WANS' Retrospective Rating Program, replacing Scott Croucher Consulting. She got her start in the Payroll / Human Resources arena in 1995, working for Heritage Bank, headquartered in Olympia, WA.

To let our members know about her, here is her personal commentary:

"My son's premature birth in October 2001, had me out of the workforce for a few years due to his special medical needs. But, he is now a healthy, very active 8-year-old. I went back to work in October 2003 for Hank Armour at West Star Corp. Wilson Oil purchased West Star in 2004 and kept me on as Payroll / HR Manager. My husband came to work for Wilson Oil in 2007 as a Transport Driver. We both work out of the Chehalis Plant.

"My husband and I will be celebrating 18 years of marriage this year. We met while he was stationed at the US Coast Guard Small Boat station, Yaquina Bay, in my hometown of Newport, OR, where my parents still live. He grew up in Shelton, WA, so when he got out of the Coast Guard in 1994, we moved to Olympia. I miss watching sunsets over the Pacific Ocean and the smell of storms rolling in, so I try to visit Newport often.

"I have been an avid motorcyclist since 1998 and currently ride a 2005 Black Cherry Harley Davidson Electra-Glide Standard (FLHTI). I have



**Bobbie Sheff**

taken some amazing trips with family and friends, logging close to 50,000 miles over the years, and am planning a trip to Yellowstone National Park, summer of 2011, to help my Dad celebrate his retirement."

**If you have questions or want to sign up for the WANS Retro Program, contact Bobbie by calling her at 360/736-2306 or emailing her at [hr@wilcoxandflegel.com](mailto:hr@wilcoxandflegel.com).**



## WSLCB Grants Mandatory Alcohol Impact Area to Spokane Downtown

The Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) has adopted a [resolution](#) recognizing a mandatory Alcohol Impact Area in Spokane's downtown core.

The purpose of an Alcohol Impact Area is to mitigate problems with chronic public inebriation or illegal activities linked to the sale or consumption of alcohol within a geographic area of a city or town. The Spokane Alcohol Impact Area boundaries run east and west from Cannon Street to Scott Street, and north and south from Spokane Falls Boulevard to Fifth Avenue.

The 32 liquor-licensed businesses and one liquor store within the boundaries that sell wine and beer for off-premises consumption will not be able to sell 32 low-cost high-alcohol-content beers and wines identified by the city effective May 15.

A list of restricted products and a map of the Alcohol Impact Area is available on the WSLCB Web site at <http://www.liq.wa.gov/AIAGeneral.aspx>.

In 1999, rules were adopted to create a framework for communities to take action to mitigate problems with chronic public inebriation and illegal activities linked to the sale and consumption of alcohol. Creating a voluntary Alcohol Impact Area is the first step for communities considering asking for a mandatory Alcohol Impact Area. If chronic public inebriation and its associated problems do not lessen after the voluntary Alcohol Impact Area is created, the local jurisdiction may then request Board recognition as a mandatory Alcohol Impact Area.

Spokane created a voluntary Alcohol Impact Area in December 2002. The city requested a mandatory Alcohol Impact Area in December 2009.

Seattle has three mandatory Alcohol Impact Areas, while Tacoma has two. Vancouver has a voluntary Alcohol Impact Area.

# Join us for the Eleventh Annual Washington Association of Neighborhood Stores Golf Tournament

Wednesday, July 7th, 2010  
1:30 pm Shotgun Start  
Progressive Scramble Format



Thank you for your interest in sponsoring and/or participating in the WANS annual golf tournament. As you know, last year's event was a huge success with a field of 85 golfers and about 25 corporate sponsors. We look forward to hosting another fabulous tournament this year with your continued support and participation.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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tournament promotional material. Call T. K. Bentler for details. (360) 789-1176.

aaaaa & 4 . 2 2 2 " R w v v This sponsorship level includes exclusive corporate signage and special recognition as the sponsor of the tournament putting contest and includes two players.

aaaaa & 3 . 4 2 2 " X 0 K 0 This sponsorship level includes exclusive corporate signage at one hole . This level includes the entry fee for two players.

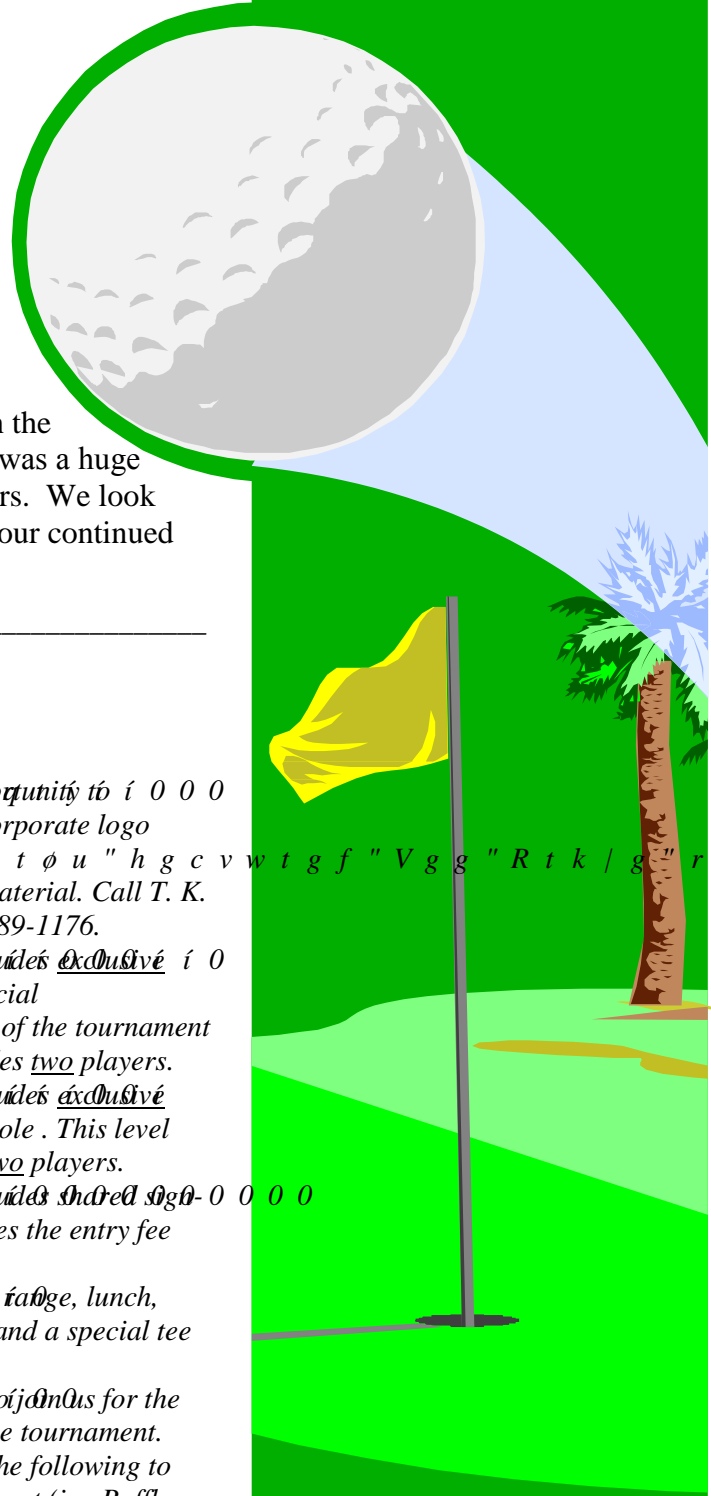
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aaaaa & 3 4 7 " G p v t { " Includes golf, cart, driving range, lunch, beverages, awards dinner and a special tee prize per player.

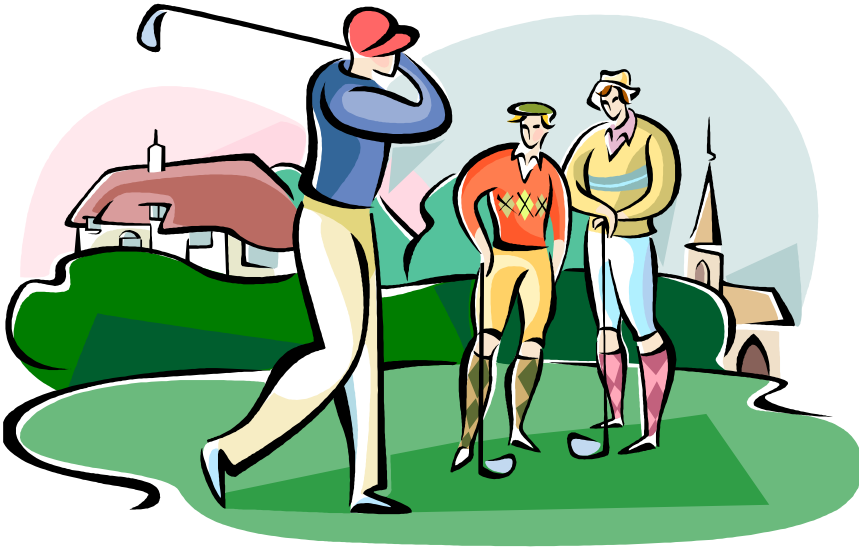
aaaaa & 7 2 " F k p p g t " Non-golfers are welcome to join us for the dinner & reception after the tournament.

aaaaa Q v j g t í í í í í í My company can provide the following to assist you with the tournament (i.e. Raffle prizes, golf balls, etc.)

Please complete this form and return it with your check to WANS, Attn: Steve Larson, PO Box 5889 Vancouver, WA 98668. (Ph: 360-789-1176 or Fax: 360-892-3293) Questions call T. K. Bentler at 360-789-1176. Let us know how many participants you will be entering in the tournament and provide their full names and handicaps (or general playing levels).



# Washington Association of Neighborhood Stores Eleventh Annual Golf Tournament



When: Wednesday, July 7, 2010  
 Registration Begins: 12:30 p.m.  
 Shotgun Start: 1:30 p.m.  
 Progressive Scramble Format

Where: The Golf Club @ Hawks Prairie  
 The Woodlands Course  
 9051 1 46th Ave. NE  
 Lacey, Washington  
 (360) 455 - 8383  
[www.hawksprairiegolf.com](http://www.hawksprairiegolf.com)

Tournament Cost: \$125.00 Entry Fee

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap	Name	Company	Phone
1. _____ - _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____ - _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____ - _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____ - _____	_____	_____	_____

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE

**July 3rd, 2010, Donations are 60% tax deductible**

Complete Form and Fax to 1-360-892-3293, or mail with check to WANS:  
 Attn: Steve Larson, P.O. Box 5889 Vancouver, WA 98668. (Ph: 360-789-1176 or Fax: 360-892-3293)  
 Questions: Call T. K. Bentler at 360-789-1176.

# Summary of bills followed during the session:

## High Priority Bills

[E2SHB 1149](#) Protecting consumers from security breaches.  
Position: Oppose  
Status: Governor signed, Chapter 151, 2010 Laws. Effective date 7/1/2010.

[SHB 1528](#) Prohibiting certain employer communications about political or religious matters.  
**Position: Oppose**  
**Status: Died**

[HB 1947](#) Concerning the regulation and preservation of urban streets through a local option street utility  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[SHB 2348](#) Regarding surcharges on fee-based activities  
Position: Oppose  
Status: Died

[HB 2493](#) Concerning the taxation of cigarettes and other tobacco products.  
Position: Oppose  
Status: Delivered to Governor

[EHB 2561](#) Provides for eliminating the Bottled Water Tax Sunset to pay for Energy Efficiency programs for state and local government buildings.  
Position: Opposed  
Status: Delivered to Governor

[HB 2644](#) Providing incentives for the collection and recycling of beverage bottles.  
Position: Concerns  
Status: Died

[HB 2737](#) Concerning employee meal and rest breaks.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[SHB 2790](#) Making technical and clarifying changes to the liquor laws.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2804](#) Concerning beer and caffeinated or stimulant enhanced malt beverages.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2845](#) Privatizing the sale of liquor.  
Position: Support  
Status: Died

[HB 2846](#) Concerning contract liquor stores.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2855](#) Providing financing options for the operations and capital needs of transit agencies.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2890](#) Privatizing the sale of liquor.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 3054](#) Relating to creating the local government revenue act of 2010.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[ESSB 6035](#) Concerning retrospective rating plans.  
Position: Oppose  
Status: Died

[2ESSB 6143](#) Excise tax law modifications other than tobacco.  
Position: Concerns  
Status: Governor Signed

[SB 6204](#) Privatizing the sale of liquor.

Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[SSB 6248](#) Concerning the use of bisphenol A.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Governor Signed, Chapter 140, 2010 Laws, Effective date 6/10/2010

[SSB 6329](#) Creating a beer and wine tasting endorsement to the grocery store liquor license.  
Position: Support  
Status: Governor signed, Chapter 141, 2010 Laws, Effective date 6/10/2010.

[SB 6333](#) Concerning beer and wine tasting at farmers markets.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[ESSB 6444](#) Making 2010 supplemental operating appropriations. Open 5 new state liquor stores, 10 new contract stores and open more Sundays, holidays.  
Position: Opposed  
Status: Delivered to Governor

[SB 6447](#) Exempting pipe tobacco from restrictions on shipping tobacco to consumers in Washington.  
Position: Neutral  
Status: Died

[SB 6458](#) Concerning minimum renewable fuel content requirements.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[SB 6465](#) Authorizing certain commercial activity at state owned safety rest areas.  
Position: Support  
Status: Died

*Continued on P. 8*

# Bill Summary...

*Continued from P. 7*

## Medium Priority Bills

[HB 1387](#) Repealing nonresident exemptions from tax on retail sales.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[ESHB 1614](#) Petroleum tax to provide funding for storm water programs.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2444](#) Providing leave from employment for participating in a child's educational activities.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2454](#) Concerning ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropranolamine.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2460](#) Regarding organic products.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: **Governor signed.** Chapter 109, 2010 Laws. Effective date 6/10/2010.

[HB 2618](#) Concerning the regulation and preservation of urban streets through a local option street maintenance utility and allowing the imposition of a charge.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2639](#) Exempting pipe tobacco from restrictions on shipping tobacco to consumers in Washington.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2749](#) Concerning local government taxation.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2758](#) Documenting wholesale sales for excise tax purposes.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Governor signed, Chapter 112, 2010 Laws. Effective date 6/10/2010\*.

[HB 2961](#) Establishing a statewide electronic tracking system for the nonprescription sales of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropranolamine.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Governor signed. Chapter 182, 2010 Laws. Effective date 6/10/2010.

## Low Priority Bills

[SHB 2515](#) Regarding biodiesel fuel labeling requirements.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Governor signed, Chapter 96, 2010 Laws. Effective date 6/10/2010.

[HB 2553](#) Addressing unemployment benefits for certain eligible individuals.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2646](#) Improving administration of wage complaints.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2647](#) Allowing certain individuals to seek part-time employment while maintaining eligibility for unemployment insurance in order to qualify for the unemployment insurance modernization incentive provisions, American recovery, reinvestment act 2009.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[SHB 2648](#) Addressing unemployment insurance penalties and contribution rates for employers who are not "qualified employers."  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[HB 2879](#) Reforming industrial insurance through privatization and competition.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[SB 6351](#) Allowing internet registration for second chance drawings of nonwinning tickets.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[SSB 6371](#) Concerning money transmitters.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Governor signed, Chapter 73, 2010 Laws. Effective date 6/10/2010.

[SB 6551](#) Documenting wholesale sales for excise tax purposes.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died

[SB 6616](#) Concerning the regulation and preservation of urban streets through a local option street maintenance utility and allowing the imposition of a charge.  
Position: Monitoring  
Status: Died



## **Bremer Appointed As New WSLCB Board Member**

Gov. Chris Gregoire has appointed Linda Bremer as the new Liquor Control Board member. Her term is effective May 1 as she fills the vacant Board position last held by Lorraine Lee. That term runs until January 15, 2011 and pays \$51,605.

Bremer, who is from Olympia, served as the Liquor Control Board's Information Technology Services Director from 2002 to 2005 and then served as the director of the state's Department of General Administration from 2005 to 2010. During her tenure, the agency developed a new architecture for financial systems, successfully managed capital projects, created a fuel-efficient motor pool, and partnered with Intercity Transit to deploy a capitol shuttle system that is an effective method for getting visitors onto the campus.

Bremer has more than 30 years of experience in management positions in the private sector and state government. She has substantial expertise in information technology; project management; business management tools; customer relations; partnership building; strategic planning; policy development; and human resource issues.

"I am excited about joining the Liquor Control Board," Bremer said in the press release. "It is an exceptional organization. I plan to devote my business talents and skills, working closely with the other Board members, to continue to create great results for our state."

She has a bachelor's degree in chemistry and an MBA in financial management. She is a 2000 alumna of the National Hispana Leadership Institute. She also has attended Harvard's State and Local Government Program.

## **Feds Looking at Higher Gas Tax**

WASHINGTON – U. S. Senate members are considering a new tax on gasoline as part of an energy and climate bill now idling in Congress.

The tax, which according to early estimates would be in the range of 15 cents a gallon, is said to have been conceived with the input of several oil companies, including Shell, BP and Conoco-Phillips, and is being championed by Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

It is shaping up as a critical but controversial piece in the efforts by Graham, Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., and Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., to write a climate bill that moderate Republicans could support. Along those lines, the bill will also include an expansion of offshore oil drilling and major new incentives for nuclear power plant construction. Environmental groups have long advocated gasoline taxes to reduce fossil fuel consumption; the oil industry has spent heavily in recent years to fight taxes that the industry says would harm consumers.

In this case, though, several oil companies are floating the tax plan because it figures to cost them far less than other climate proposals, including a climate bill the House passed last year.

The Senate climate bill's sponsors also appear to want the revenue raised from the tax to fund a variety of programs that would reduce industrial emissions, including helping manufacturers reduce energy use or boost wind and solar power in-

stallations by electric utilities.

As negotiations build toward a scheduled unveiling of the bill soon, it's still unclear whether major oil companies and their trade group, the American Petroleum Institute, will endorse the legislation.

"Getting major oil companies to truly and aggressively support a specific bill mandating greenhouse gas emissions limits and a carbon price would be a significant political accomplishment," said Paul W. Bledsoe, a former Clinton administration official now with the Bipartisan National Commission on Energy Policy.

## **Help Avoid Costly Time-Loss Claims**

As an employer you have safety training programs in place; but, despite best efforts an accident will happen. How will you manage that claim, employee time lost, the cost, its effect on your later premiums and the future lower retro refund?

If the worker is not too badly injured you might consider short-term modified duty or permanently-modified work. A generally less desirable option for you both is vocational retraining. This option extends the life of the claim by two more years of time-loss benefits; \$12,000 for two years of vocational retraining; plus miscellaneous L&I charges.

The bottom line is that your safety program should always be improving. Employees don't want to be injured and your bottom line can't stand the pain either.

If you have questions about safety programs, modified duty or minimizing claims costs, contact WANS' Retrospective Rating authority, Bobbie Sheff, at 360/736-2306.

Save the date!

**WANS Eleventh  
Annual Golf Outing Set  
for July 7, 2010**

Location for this special event for you and your customers will be at The Woodlands, Hawks Prairie. It will be a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Sign up now! See flyer and sign-up sheet inside the newsletter.

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Here



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