



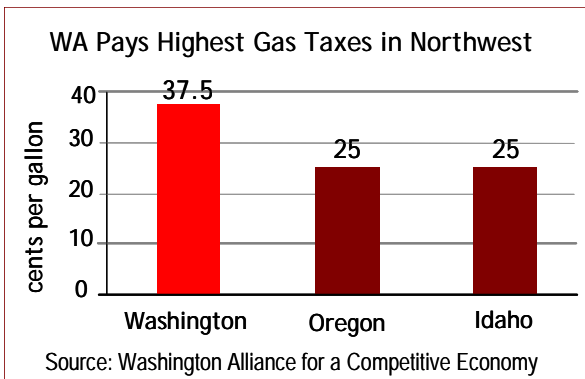
Hidden Gas Taxes Vote NO on HB 1614

Is this really the right time for a \$1 Billion Hidden Gas Tax?

HB 1614 would impose a new hidden tax on gasoline and diesel to pay for surface water runoff at a cost of more than \$1 billion over ten years.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR HIGHER TAXES

Washington drivers **already pay the highest fuel taxes in the Northwest**, and the sixth highest in the country at 37.5 cents per gallon. HB 1614 is the equivalent of another 4 cents a gallon. Drivers in Washington are doing their fair share and shouldn't be forced to pay \$1 billion more in higher fuel costs under HB 1614.



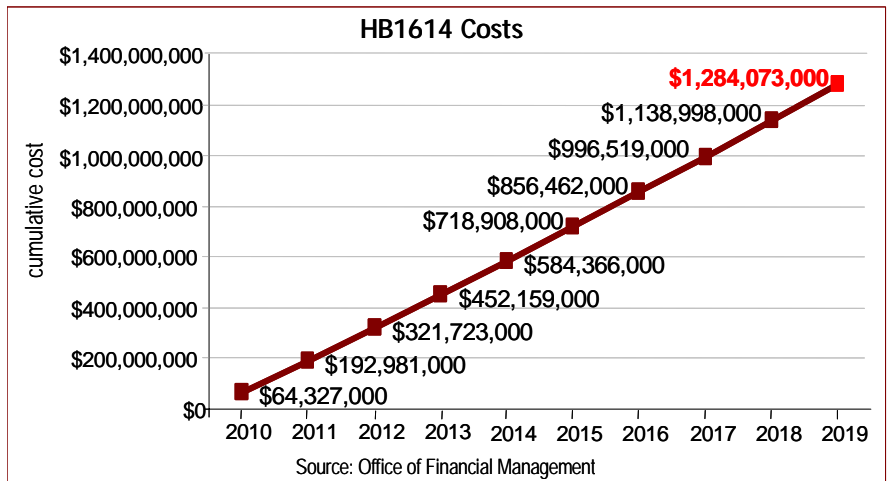
HIDDEN GAS TAX HURTS WASHINGTON FAMILIES AND DESTROYS JOBS

Washington families already are hurting from the recession with unemployment and home foreclosures on the rise. **Higher taxes on gas especially hurt low-income families** who pay a larger share of their incomes for fuel. They will also lead to higher costs for all consumers – taking more money out of the pockets of Washington families. Higher taxes on gas would send ripples throughout the economy, discouraging business expansion, investment and job creation.

HB1614 IS BASED ON INCOMPLETE SCIENCE

HB 1614 puts the cart before the horse by arbitrarily taxing gasoline and diesel fuel consumers before completing the scientific analysis of stormwater contaminants that is already underway. The Department of Ecology recently concluded that their **initial estimate of storm-water run-off was overstated by some 67 percent and their initial estimate of the impact of petroleum products in that run-off was overstated by at least 40 percent.**

Until we know what the contaminants are and where they come from, we can't identify their impacts on the environment or human health, develop the most cost-effective strategies to fix the problem, or come up with a fair method to allocate the costs of cleanup to all those responsible.



The good news is that we will have these answers soon: The Puget Sound Partnership and the Department of Ecology will be completing a three-phase program to answer these questions in June of 2010. Doesn't it make more sense to wait a few months to complete the science before blindly imposing \$1 billion in higher gas taxes on consumers?

VIOLATES THE STATE CONSTITUTION BY DIVERTING TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS

The 18th Amendment to the State Constitution requires that gasoline and diesel taxes be spent only for transportation purposes. By using gas taxes for stormwater projects, HB 1614 is open to constitutional challenge and would **make it more difficult to raise funds for vitally needed transportation projects.**