

An Open Letter to Washington State Senators

Political moves we don't need threaten the jobs we do need.

We all live and breathe stories of a sluggish economy. Businesses and families are getting by with less and agonizing over budget cuts.

Job losses, finger pointing and the need for quick solutions are common topics around water coolers, dinner tables and in cyberspace.

But here in Washington we have a lot to be thankful for. We are a state of creative and industrious people. And while nobody wants to be out of work, for those who are, we also have a healthy unemployment fund to give support to those looking for work.

Businesses have paid into that fund for decades to make it the largest unemployment fund of its kind in the country. That's great news!

Some legislators now want our businesses—our employers—to shoulder even more of a burden with higher benefits. And higher benefits translate quickly to higher taxes. Already, businesses in Washington pay one of the highest unemployment insurance tax rates in the country.

Employers are struggling to keep their doors open and meet payroll. This is simply the wrong time for state lawmakers to increase pressure on them.

[SSB 5963](#), as amended in the House, jeopardizes businesses and the jobs they provide. Please reject the House amendments to SB 5963 and send the original bill passed by the Senate to Gov. Gregoire.

With your help, businesses and families will all get back on their feet and once more enjoy the benefits of a robust and thriving economy.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONS

Associated Builders & Contractors	National Federation of Independent Business
Associated General Contractors of Washington	Recreational Gaming Association and its 10,000 employees
Association of Washington Business	Snohomish County Private Enterprise Coalition
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce	Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce	Urban Enterprise Center
Building Industry Association of Washington	WashACE
East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition	Washington Bankers Association
Greater Marysville Tulalip Chamber of Commerce	Washington Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association
Greater Redmond Chamber of Commerce	Washington Farm Bureau
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce	Washington Food Industry
Greater Spokane Incorporated	Washington Restaurant Association

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Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Master Builders of King & Snohomish Counties

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

National Electrical Contractors Association,
Cascade Chapter

Washington Retail Association

Washington Roundtable

Yakima Valley Chamber of Commerce

Yakima Valley Growers & Shippers Association

BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS

A Place For Mom

Altria

AMGEN

Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals

AT&T

Bank of America

Braun Northwest

Chateau Retirement Communities LLC.

Columbia Ventures Corporation

Conner Development Company

Construction Planning & Management

Copies Today & Speedy Litho

Cowles Company

Diane Tebelius

Empire Bolt & Screw

Everett P. Paup

Galley Resources, Inc.

GM Nameplate

Greacen Construction

Green Diamond Resources

Inkon Media LLC

Inland Empire Paper Company

JL Darling Corporation

John Stanton

Koch Industries

Lampson International

MacHenrys Provisioners

Manson Construction

Physicians Insurance A Mutual Company

Port Blakeley Tree Farms

Port Blakely Companies

Premera Blue Cross

Puget Sound Energy

Robert Schuster

Rowley Enterprises

S.D. Deacon Corp. of Washington

Scott Barr

Simpson Investment Company

Stanwood Grill

Stephen Loeb

T-Mobile

Todd J. Thompson

Trilogy Partners

US Trust, Bank of America

Vander Hoek Windows and Doors, Inc.

Washington Tree Service

Weyerhaeuser

WHPacific

William Nahorn

Yakima Valley Business Times