

DRONE LEGISLATION VETOED

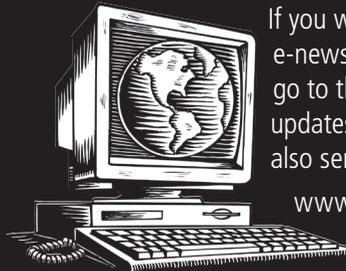


House Bill 2789, known as the "drone bill," was passed with strong bipartisan support but was vetoed by Gov. Inslee, seemingly because state agencies are pushing for use of drones. I have received many concerns from

private property owners. The bill placed privacy protections around the use of unmanned surveillance aircraft by state agencies and protected our privacy and constitutional rights as citizens. It still would have allowed law enforcement to use surveillance aircraft in certain situations, such as search and rescue missions and emergencies. However, it would not allow agencies to observe your house or farm from the air without a warrant. Despite the veto, we will continue to work on protecting your privacy rights on all levels.



E-NEWSLETTER



If you would like to sign up for my e-newsletters visit my Web page and go to the "sign up for my periodic e-mail updates" at the top of the page. You can also send me your e-mail information.

www.representativecarycondotta.com

2014 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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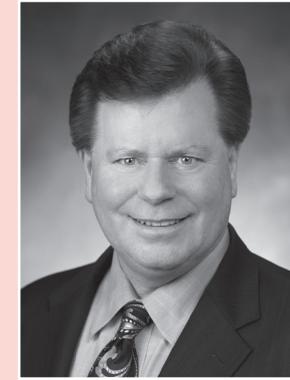
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2014 Legislative Review

12th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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- Labor & Workforce Development (*Assistant Ranking Republican*)
- Finance

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For the first time since 2009, the Legislature adjourned on time. It was one of the positives of the short session. With tax revenue stable, the supplemental budget needed little tweaking and there was no reason to be there extra days.

The session became a huge threat to small business and youth employment, along with increased regulations

This update provides a brief overview of the session with the good, bad and some concerns as we look ahead.

It is good to be back in district. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about what happened in the Legislature this session, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also encourage you to contact me if you need any assistance with a state government issue. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

Cary Condotta
12th District Representative



SESSION SUCCESSES



I had a number of bills receive public hearings and pass thru committees that brought attention to a variety of issues - defining independent contractors, property taxes, auditing out state's two largest universities, and other bills related to local wineries and small business. We completed work on two of these important bills this session.

House Bill 2309 – gives county treasurers more flexibility in accepting property tax payments. This legislation may benefit people who lose their jobs, have a health crises, live on retirement income or work seasonal jobs.

House Bill 2146 – Unless you deal with this agency on a regular basis this may not mean a great deal to you, but it is a great example of concerns I have with our state agencies. It was brought to my attention that to appeal a \$150 penalty within the Department of Labor and Industries, you had to pay a \$200 fee. With small penalty levels and a high appeal cost, people obviously did not appeal. This legislation changes the appeal amount to 10 percent of the penalty amount, or \$200, whichever is less, subject to a \$100 minimum.

House Bill 2192 promotes economic development by improving the predictability and efficiency of state agency permit decisions. This legislation is a good transparency measure making information about permitting assistance and timelines more readily available to the public.

House Bills 2261 and **2262** require the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Ecology to “show their work” by categorizing on their websites the sources of scientific information relied upon in support of significant agency actions. This makes state agencies accountable for their actions and makes their decision-making process more transparent.



House Bill 2207 provides that certain school districts which receive federal forest revenue will no longer have their state funding allocation reduced by the amount of federal forest revenue received.



SMALL BUSINESS UNDER FIRE

This session, some eye-opening pieces of legislation were introduced that would have negatively impacted small business. We were able to stop these bills, but employers have reason for concern. There were proposals to:



- increase the minimum wage to \$12 an hour;
- require mandatory paid sick and safe leave;
- require mandatory paid vacation leave; and
- add or expand provisions related to the federal Affordable Care Act.

Employers are finding it difficult to survive Washington's one-of-a-kind Business and Occupation tax, high payroll taxes, and cumbersome permitting process and regulatory hurdles. Collectively, these bills would have devastated businesses around the 12th District.

We did introduce legislation to assist in job creation and benefit employers this session, including bills to:

- re-enact the Rural County Tax Incentive Program (that would have helped up to 31 counties);
- extend the tax incentive for data centers constructed in our state; and
- extend the same tax incentives Boeing received to rotorcraft (i.e. helicopters) because a company wanted to build helicopters in Washington.



However, none of these were adopted. This is disappointing since last November legislators were rushed back to Olympia for a whirlwind special session to vote on tax incentive legislation for Boeing. I was very surprised the budget did not renew the data center tax incentive, especially with the amount of construction, economic development and family-wage jobs we saw it generate.

NO TRANSPORTATION REFORMS OR ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PLANS



The Legislature could not agree on meaningful transportation reforms to ensure gas tax dollars are maximized. There are a number of reforms we could look at to ensure accountability in our transportation system and gain the public's trust back as Bertha is not digging, faulty 520 Bridge pontoons are not floating and ferries that are less than efficient.



At last check there were 290,000 health insurance cancellation notices in our state. We introduced legislation to allow people to look at plans offered in other states to increase competition and looked into allowing people to keep their old plans. We were unable to pass any legislation to help people who have been negatively impacted by the Affordable Care Act.

I-502 IMPLEMENTATION

I was recently appointed as the **ranking Republican** on the **House Government Oversight and Accountability Committee (GOA)**. This committee works on legislation related to alcohol, gambling and now overseeing the implementation of the legalization of marijuana initiative (I-502). Whether we like it or not, the citizens of Washington passed the initiative and the Legislature is trying to provide regulations and oversight to make it work. It has proven to be a very difficult task since no other state has done this before. Even Colorado is operating off a very different model than our voters approved. The challenge for me is to ensure local money is included in any implementation plan. Many cities and counties are struggling, including right here in our 12th District. Many have considered bans or moratoriums rather than risk increased costs dealing with zoning, planning and enforcement. Over 100 mayors signed a letter supporting my position. Unfortunately, we were unable to reach an agreement before the session adjourned. We worked on this issue until the last hour, including a one-on-one meeting with Gov. Jay Inslee. All the stakeholders agreed to keep working to ensure local governments a share in this program.

