
STATE REPRESENTATIVE **NORMA SMITH**

DERELICT VESSELS

Passage of legislation this session to prevent abandoned and derelict vessels from polluting our waterways capped off a long process of collaboration between myself and Rep. Drew Hansen, the bill's prime sponsor, plus multiple stakeholders.

It is my hope this law will help prevent future disasters, such as the Deep Sea in Penn Cove two years ago.

Throughout last summer and fall, Rep. Hansen and I met almost every week with stakeholders to craft balanced legislation that incentivizes boat owners to deal with high-risk vessels responsibly, and lowers the cost of vessel deconstruction. In addition, some commercial vessel owners will join recreational boaters who have been funding the state's Derelict Vessel Removal Program in paying an annual fee. Working together, we can stem the tide of potential problem vessels and create more opportunities for proper deconstruction.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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STAYING IN TOUCH

If you would like to receive my legislative e-mail updates, you can go to my website – www.RepresentativeNormaSmith.com – and enter your e-mail address at the top of the page. Please note that due to election-year restrictions, I cannot send out another e-mail update until Dec. 1.

Also, I look forward to your invitations to speak to your group, classroom, or even to meet with you over tea, and discuss issues that are important to you. Please contact my office to schedule an appointment.

Thank you so much.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE NORMA SMITH

10th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Spring 2014

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- Technology and Economic Development (*Ranking Republican*)
- Capital Budget
- Higher Education



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I write this, people in Oso, Darrington and Arlington are grieving over the lives lost in the tragic mudslide. We are all broken-hearted and continue to pray for everyone involved. Their courage and sacrifice in the response and recovery have inspired the world. So many communities, including those in the 10th District, have pitched in to offer material, financial and spiritual support to the victims. Thank you.

Lawmakers may be called upon to consider what legislative action, if any, should be taken in response to this tragedy, and we will be ready with due diligence. But now is not the time – now is the time for us to support our neighbors and to give them the space they need to grieve. Their lives have been forever altered, yet they remain “Oso Strong.”

The 2014 legislative session ended March 13, and I’d like to give you an update on some of the progress we made this year. I hope you find this newsletter informative.

In a short, 60-day session, we were able to achieve some important goals, such as regulatory reform and added oversight for derelict and abandoned vessels.

I am still concerned about our sluggish economy and the number of people who struggle to find work. I remain committed to working in a respectful, bipartisan way to enact policies which will spur economic growth, creating more family-wage jobs and new opportunities for all Washingtonians.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with questions, comments and ideas. I am available throughout the interim to meet with you or to speak to your community organization. It is such a great honor to serve you in the Legislature.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norma".

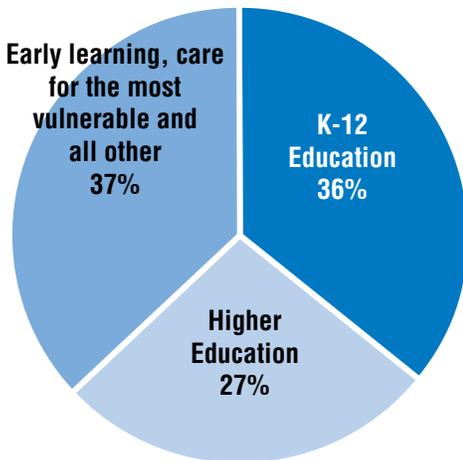
Norma Smith
State Representative
10th Legislative District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **NORMA SMITH**

OPERATING BUDGET

This session the Legislature passed a supplemental operating budget. It is called “supplemental” because it makes only minor changes to the larger budget we passed last year.

It continues the good policy we started last year, with a truly bipartisan budget that is balanced out to four years, helping to ensure stability and sustainability for future budgets.



Percentages based on net policy adjustments.

Because Washington’s economy is slowly improving, more tax revenues have been coming into the state. As a consequence, we were able to direct money to areas in the budget that could benefit from more funding.

Priority for new funding was given to K-12 education (\$64 million) and higher education (\$35

million). We also set aside \$26 million for long-term care, mental health and care for people with developmental disabilities.

Although there were some disappointments – such as lack of support for the Life Sciences Discovery Fund – overall I believe

this is a solid budget that is responsible with your tax dollars. We did not raise taxes and we left enough in the ending balance to help protect us against emergencies.

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

There was no gas tax increase this year. The supplemental transportation budget mostly spends existing funds, except for new vehicle registration fees that will be used to build a third 144-car ferry. The first of the new ferries will be assigned to the Mukilteo-Clinton route.

We will certainly need new transportation improvements in the future. But with all the problems and cost-overruns in the state Department of Transportation, we must first have reforms and cost-savings in the system before asking taxpayers for more money.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The primary Capital Budget approved in 2013 was a solid, conservative measure that made effective investments across the state and was a bipartisan effort.

This year, it was a disappointment that the House and Senate weren’t able to agree on a supplemental capital budget. In the House, we passed a bipartisan proposal for hundreds of millions of dollars in new K-12 classroom construction that would be funded by lottery-backed bonds. I will work with my colleagues on the Capital Budget Committee next session to make the critical investments needed in our schools.



On Navy Day in the state Capitol, Rep. Smith thanks members of the Navy, and their families, for their service and sacrifice. From left to right, the uniformed naval officers are: Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, Rear Adm. Michael Smith, Lt. Benjamin Sebek and Lt. David Nicolas.

2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION • TENTH DISTRICT

EDUCATION

Funding

We continue to work toward the goal of fully funding K-12 education by 2018, as laid out in the Washington state Supreme Court 2012 McCleary ruling. Last year we made significant progress, increasing K-12 funding by \$1.5 billion – an 11.4 percent increase from the previous budget.

This year we allocated nearly two-thirds of supplemental budget funds to K-12 and higher education. In the next session we must continue to not only provide adequate funding for our schools, but also to enact meaningful reforms to improve student outcomes.

Stronger 'STEM' instruction

In today's competitive economy it is crucial that students are given the best possible instruction so they can succeed in the workforce. The Legislature responded to this challenge by approving a bill that strengthens high school graduation requirements.

The final version of this legislation raises expectation for a meaningful high school diploma, while creating the needed flexibility for our local districts. It emphasizes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in grades 9 through 12. The goal is that by the time a student graduates from high school, he or she has more of the kinds of skills that match what employers are looking for. This will be beneficial to all high school graduates, including those who go on to Community and Technical colleges and later seek jobs in the production and manufacturing sector.

By improving STEM instruction, I believe we are giving students greater hope and opportunity for good-paying jobs and a brighter future. I was happy to support this bill.



BETTER SERVICE FROM STATE AGENCIES

My bill to improve state agency permitting has been signed into law by Gov. Inslee. This is a very important issue for improving our state's business climate and creating more jobs.

At the end of last year the state auditor's office issued a comprehensive report, which found that lack of certainty and timeliness in state permitting is one of the biggest problems for our state's employers. If employers aren't getting their permits processed in a timely manner and are unnecessarily spending excessive time and money due to the complexity of the process, then they can't

move forward with their business plan, expand or hire new employees.

The new law requires state agencies to publically provide information on how long it takes them to process permits, from beginning to end, and to better assist those who apply for permits. Agencies that take too long to process permit applications will now have to improve their service over time.