



Keep Washington Competitive Newsletter

June 2015

Perhaps the biggest news right now is that after three special sessions, the 2015 Washington State Legislature is nearing completion and is on track to approve a \$16 billion transportation package. This plan includes several projects of statewide significance that will help our economy and facilitate better movement of people, goods and services in Washington state. This issue of the KWC newsletter includes information and links to news on a variety of topics related to Keep Washington Competitive. We encourage you to circulate this update among your membership so they can stay informed. We'd also ask for your support in getting the word out about KWC on social media. KWC is now on Twitter (@KWC_Trade). Please follow us and encourage others interested in trade and competitiveness issues to do so, too.

Have a news item, event or feedback to share? Contact us at info@keepwashingtoncompetitive.com.

Competitiveness

Keep Washington Competitive, in partnership with the Northwest Jobs Alliance and the Whatcom Business Alliance, hosted an event that drew more than 150 people and featured business, community and labor leaders who emphasized Whatcom County's need for family-wage jobs to sustain working families in Bellingham on June 22nd.



"Rebuilding the Middle Class: Working Families and Wages in Northwest Washington and the State" included presentations and remarks by elected officials, economists, trade and agricultural leaders who underscored the importance of expanding Washington state's trade infrastructure to develop long-term, family-wage jobs in Whatcom County.

Ralph Schwartz with [The Bellingham Herald](#) reported on the event, writing in part: "If the growth of Whatcom County's post-recession economy is going to catch up to the rest of the state, it would help if a proposed 54 million-metric-ton export terminal for coal and other bulk goods was built at Cherry Point. That was the message during a panel discussion at the meeting held in Fox Hall at Hampton Inn." Read the full article [here](#).

[The Longview Daily News](#) published an op-ed by John Stuhlmiller, CEO of the Washington Farm Bureau and KWC board member, emphasizing the importance of Washington's trade economy and future:



"Securing our footing as a dominant trade player, both domestically and internationally, will enable the state to pass on this prosperous agriculture market to the next generation of farmers. But we must drive private investment and promote a regulatory environment that encourages businesses to settle here, and stay here. We can do this, most effectively, by investing in infrastructure — including greater port capacity and a vigorous rail network."

Read the full article [here](#).

[The Wenatchee World](#) published a pro-trade editorial also citing agriculture export data from Stuhlmiller: "We are a state — and moreover, we are a region — that produces many products to be sold in markets overseas. Washington apples, pears, cherries, potatoes and wheat are just part of it. Agriculture accounts for 13 percent of the state's economy, said John Stuhlmiller of the Washington Farm Bureau, and a third of the state's commodities are exported. At least 75 percent are sold in Asian markets, across the wide Pacific." Read the editorial [here](#).

[Washington Ag Today](#) also interviewed Stuhlmiller, to discuss trade issues. Listen [here](#).

[The Everett Herald](#) reprinted an earlier [Washington Examiner](#) op-ed discussing business regulatory issues facing Washington state: "Even as the energy sector helps propel the nation's economic resurgence with billions of dollars of investment in new project and technologies, it is facing hurdles in an unlikely quarter: states with economies that depend on a strong energy sector. From Alaska to Washington, governors who could reap great benefits from partnering with the energy companies are, in fact, doing and saying things that potentially undermine the industry at a time when the nation's economy is still fragile." Read the article [here](#).

[The Puget Sound Business Journal](#) published a piece featuring an interview with Michael Moore, vice president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association. Throughout the interview, Moore highlights the necessity to support Seattle's maritime and trade industry. Read the article [here](#).

Keep Washington Competitive is a coalition of business, labor, agriculture, and trade organizations and leaders, joined together to promote bi-lateral trade growth in Washington State through sound state policies.

