

Washington

Washington pay floor to rise to at least \$9.53

Ballot measure calls for \$11 wage on Jan. 1

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Washington Department of Labor and Industries announced Wednesday that the state's minimum wage will increase by 6 cents an hour to \$9.53 on Jan. 1, unless voters pass a measure to push the pay floor to the highest among the 50 states.

After two years at \$9.47 an hour because of low inflation, Washington's minimum wage will rise to reflect a 0.7 percent increase in the consumer price index for urban wage earners, according to L&I. An initiative voters approved in 1998 requires annual adjustments for inflation.

The hike will make Washington's minimum wage the eighth highest among the 50 states, according to the U.S.



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Workers pick corn in Washington state. The Department of Labor and Industries announced Sept. 28 that the state's minimum wage will increase to \$9.53 an hour Jan. 1. The wage would go to \$11 an hour if Initiative 1433 passes.

Department of Labor.

Washington's minimum wage would tie for highest if Initiative 1433 passes in November.

The measure calls for raising the wage to \$11 on Jan. 1, the same day Massachusetts will raise its current \$10 pay floor by \$1.

Under I-1433, Washington's wage would increase annually until it reaches \$13.50 in 2020.

Automatic adjustments for inflation would then resume.

I-1433 would not prevent cities from adopting higher minimum wages, as has Seattle, Tacoma and SeaTac.

I-1433 would also mandate that employers provide paid family leave. Accrued benefits would carry over from year to year for seasonal workers.

As of Wednesday, the initiative's campaign committee, Raise Up Wa, had reported raising \$3.5 million, including \$1 million from Seattle ven-

ture capitalist Nick Hanauer, according to the Public Disclosure Committee.

The No on I-1433 committee had reported raising \$53,646, including \$5,000 from the Washington Farm Bureau.

The Farm Bureau maintains that state and local minimum wages higher than the federal minimum wage, currently \$7.25 an hour, put producers in those areas at a disadvantage against their competitors elsewhere.

The trend nationwide has been for states to adopt higher minimum wages and more complex rate schedules.

The Oregon Legislature this year adopted a three-tier approach.

As of July 1, the minimum wage rose to \$9.50 in 18 rural counties, and \$9.75 in three Portland Metro counties and the state's other 15 counties.

By mid-2020, the rural wage will be \$12.50, the Port-

land area wage \$14.75 and the so-called "standard wage" for everywhere else will be \$13.50.

After that, the standard wage will be adjusted annually for inflation. The rural wage will then be set at \$1 less than the standard wage, while the Portland wage will be \$1.25 more than the standard wage.

California's minimum wage will increase on Jan. 1 to \$10.50 from \$10.

The wage will gradually rise to \$15 in 2022 for businesses with more than 25 workers and in 2023 for businesses with fewer. The wages will then be adjusted for inflation.

Idaho has adopted the federal minimum wage as its state minimum wage.

Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia have minimum wages higher than the federal pay floor, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Wash. Farm Bureau, others sue to overturn carbon cap

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Energy companies and business groups, including the Washington Farm Bureau, are suing to overturn Gov. Jay Inslee's carbon cap, claiming the governor has exceeded his authority and imposed a climate-change policy that violates state and federal constitutions and will actually harm the environment.

Separate lawsuits were filed Tuesday in Thurston County Superior Court and U.S. District Court in Spokane. Both suits seek to stop the Washington Department of Ecology from implementing the Clear Air Rule, the



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Steam rises from the KapStone Kraft Paper Corp. in Longview, Wash. The Northwest Pulp and Paper Association and several other business groups, including the Washington Farm Bureau, filed a lawsuit Sept. 27 in Thurston County Superior Court to overturn Gov. Jay Inslee's carbon cap.

name the Inslee administration has given the carbon cap.

The rule is scheduled to go into effect Oct. 17 and will require dozens of plants, oil

refineries and natural gas distributors to gradually cut their carbon emissions or invest in carbon-reduction projects elsewhere in Washington.

The carbon cap will increase fuel prices and the cost of agricultural production, according to the Farm Bureau.

Inslee ordered Ecology to develop the rule, citing his authority under the Washington Clean Air Act and a 2008 law that directs the state to cut greenhouse gases to half of 1990's level by 2050.

The lawsuits challenge the governor's authority and argue that the rule is poor environmental policy.

Capping carbon in Washington will shift manufacturing and electricity generation to other countries and states that rely more on coal-fired power plants, according to the lawsuits.

Ecology failed to look at the global implications of its policy, said Brandon

Housekeeper, director of governmental affairs on environmental issues for the Association of Washington Business, which is leading the lawsuit in Thurston County.

Ecology has required private-sector proposals, such as a coal export terminal in Longview, to evaluate their impact on greenhouse gases worldwide, not just in Washington, he said.

"In a nutshell, they really oversimplified their environmental evaluation of a complex rule," Housekeeper said. "They didn't even meet their own test. It's just an incomplete analysis."

The other plaintiffs in the state court lawsuit include the Farm Bureau and the Northwest Food Processors Asso-

ciation. Avista Corp., Cascade Natural Gas, Northwest Natural Gas and Puget Sound Energy filed suit in federal court.

The carbon cap will raise the cost of producing electricity and encourage Puget Sound Energy to shift away from natural-gas plants in Washington and toward coal plants in other states, according to the lawsuit.

Ecology issued a statement defending the rule.

"When we adopted the Clean Air Rule we joined California and nine other states in the Northeast to do our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We're currently evaluating the legal challenge and will continue our work to implement the Clean Air Rule," according to Ecology.



Nov. 9-10, 2016
TRAC Center
Pasco, WA

Presented by



Sponsored by



<p>Wednesday November 9, 2016 8AM to 5PM – Expo</p> <p>Class for Pesticide Credits 8:30am – 9:30am <i>Marc Eylar Weeds on the Move in Eastern Washington ID & Control</i></p> <p>Class for Pesticide Credits 10:30am – 11:30am <i>Marc Eylar Noxious Weeds Typical of Open Forests & Rangeland in Eastern Washington</i></p> <p>Seminar Ag Energy 1pm-2pm <i>Bruce Appel Ag Energy's Biochar, Production and Use in Agriculture</i></p> <p>Seminar Ag Energy 3pm-4pm Amit Dhingra Ph.D. <i>Understanding how Biochar Modulates Plant Growth and Development</i></p>	<p>Thursday November 10, 2016 8AM to 4PM – Expo</p> <p>Tax Seminar 8:30am-9:30am <i>Paul Neiffer, CPA, Clifton Larson Allen Farm Tax Update, including How Proposed IRS Regulations Could Effect Family Transfers</i></p> <p>Drone Demonstrations 10:30am – 11:30am <i>Patrick J. Ford, PhD Director, New Opportunities in Aviation</i></p> <p>Roundtable Discussion 1pm-3pm <i>WSDA Director Derek Sandison USBR's Dawn Wiedmeire WA State Rep. Mary Dye</i></p>
--	---

For further information contact:

<p>Rusty Hunt rhunt@cherycreekradio.com 509-681-0218</p>	<p>Shani Van Hoorelbeke shani@cherycreekradio.com 509-547-1618</p>
---	---

Follow Us On


#PNWAgie





They're your dreams. Start building them.

You've already dreamed up the blueprints. We may be able to help bring them to life. The U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit offers competitive rates, flexible payment options and trusted service to help you finance the lasting home improvements you've always wanted.



HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

Introductory rate for 6 months
Rates as low as
1.50% APR*
Rate available 9/11/16 - 11/11/16.
Rates are subject to change.

Variable rate after introductory period
4.00% APR*
Rate shown for lines of credit:
– Up to 70% loan-to-value
– U.S. Bank Consumer Checking Package
Actual rate may be lower.
Visit usbank.com for custom rates.

Call 800.209.BANK (2265),
visit a local branch,
or go to usbank.com/dreambig

usbank
the POWER of POSSIBLE.™

*1.50% Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is available on Home Equity Lines of Credit with an 80% loan-to-value (LTV) or less. The Introductory Interest Rate will be fixed at 1.50% during the 6-month Introductory Period. A higher introductory rate will apply for an LTV above 80%. Offer is available for new applications submitted between September 11 – November 11, 2016. After the 6-month introductory period: the APR is variable and is based upon an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with Prime Rate (the index) as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of September 11, 2016, the variable rate for Home Equity Lines of Credit ranged from 2.62% APR to 7.20% APR. Higher rates may apply due to an increase in the Prime Rate, a credit limit below \$100,000, an LTV above 70%, and/or a credit score less than 730. A U.S. Bank Consumer Silver, Gold, or Platinum Checking Package account is required to receive the lowest rate, but is not required for loan approval. The rate will not vary above 18% APR, or applicable state law, or below 2.12% APR – 2.55% APR, depending on market. Choosing an interest-only repayment may cause your monthly payment to increase, possibly substantially, once your credit line transitions into the repayment period. Repayment options may vary based on credit qualifications. Interest only repayment may be unavailable. Loans are subject to credit approval and program guidelines. Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rates and program terms are subject to change without notice. Property insurance is required. U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Your tax and financial situation is unique. You should consult your tax and/or legal advisor for advice and information concerning your particular situation. Other restrictions may apply. Mortgage and Home Equity products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Deposit Products are offered through U.S. Bank National Association. Customer pays no closing costs, except escrow-related funding costs. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year and is waived with a U.S. Bank personal Platinum Checking Package. The Consumer Pricing Information brochure lists terms and conditions that apply to U.S. Bank Consumer Checking Package accounts and can be obtained by calling 800.872.2657. Member FDIC. ©2016 U.S. Bank. 160494 8/16