

Washington State Tax Structure Study

Committee Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2002

Committee members present: John Beck
Lisa Brown
Neil Bruce
Jack Cairnes
Dick Conway
Bill Gates, Sr.
Lily Kahng
Jim McIntire
Hugh Spitzer
Gary Strannigan

Committee members absent: Debbe Sanders

Welcome

Bill Gates welcomed the Committee members.

The minutes of the April 12, 2002, Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Bill Gates gave an overview of the April 18 and May 9, 2002, Alternatives Subcommittee meetings.

Will Rice of the Department of Revenue reviewed the meeting handouts.

Advisory Group Input

Nicole Stewart of the Department presented a handout with comments from the Advisory Group on the topics of administrative simplicity, transparency/lumpiness, and home ownership.

Equity

Lorrie Brown and Mary Welsh of the Department of Revenue gave a presentation on equity.

Hugh Spitzer asked that the Department of Revenue make available information on how much the state transportation program has been funded by general fund revenues rather than by gas taxes.

Jim McIntire asked for data by county on where taxes are generated.

For Charts 3, 4 and 5, John Beck requested data on the percentage of households in each income bracket.

Neil Bruce asked whether Table 7, which is based on location, could be constructed using gross income so it would be consistent with Table 6.

Economic Neutrality/Efficiency

A presentation on economic neutrality and efficiency was given by Donn Smallwood and Nicole Stewart of the Department of Revenue.

June Workshop

The June meeting will be held on Friday, June 14, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Walker Ames Room, Kane Hall at the University of Washington.