

From: "Schulz, Kirk" <kirk.schulz@wsu.edu>
To: "Mulick, Christopher B" <chris.mulick@wsu.edu>
Sent: 9/29/2016 9:37:36 AM
Subject: FW: Meeting with Schoesler

Sorry to be causing problems.

Kirk H. Schulz
President
Washington State University
Kirk.schulz@wsu.edu
[@WSU_Cougar_Pres](#)

From: "Kerr, Colleen" <colleen.kerr@wsu.edu>
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 9:18 AM
To: Ginger Druffel <gkdruffel@wsu.edu>, "Kirk (WSU) Schulz" <kirk.schulz@wsu.edu>
Subject: Meeting with Schoesler

Hi Ginger/Kirk -

We heard this morning from one of our lobbyists that Kirk has a meeting already set up with Senator Schoesler some time next week. We were unaware of this meeting until we heard about it via our lobbyist. The reason I am asking is that Schoesler has sent signals that this will be a "bumpy" meeting – that's an exact quote. If there is any information you could provide about when/where this meeting, how it was initiated, and a proposed agenda – even a brief outline – it will help us run some advance traps. From a public policy perspective: we just navigated wolves, we're taking a beating in the Spokane papers and community over Athletics, and things are lit up now over dams. Mark is following all of this keenly and talking with many, many other stakeholders about all of these issues. I would appreciate any information you have so that we can navigate this. He is our local member and many of us are on first name basis with him, he is also the Majority Leader. I very appreciate that it's a tricky balance sometimes.

Thanks,
CK

From: "Mulick, Christopher B" <chris.mulick@wsu.edu>
To: Jim Jesernig <jimjesernig@aol.com>, Dan Coyne <dancoyne@coynejesernig.com>
Sent: 7/5/2016 5:53:00 PM
Subject: follow up

Jim and Dan,

I've been asked to compile a list of activities we've been engaged in that are perceived to be anti-agriculture. Please review this list and let me know what I need to add. For instance, Mark (and I think you both from time to time) may have mentioned something about the Columbia Basin Project that pre-dates me.

1. Cougars - Weilgus
2. Wolves - Weilgus
3. Yakima Basin Storage – Yoder
4. Organics – Reganold
5. Wildlife Refuge – Premier
6. Carbon Tax – Galinato

Thanks.

Chris Mulick, '97
Director of State Relations
Washington State University
Office: (360) 534-2333
Cell: (253) 579-2461
chris.mulick@wsu.edu

From: "Mulick, Christopher B" <chris.mulick@wsu.edu>
To: Kirk Schulz <kirk.schulz@wsu.edu>
CC: Colleen Kerr <colleen.kerr@wsu.edu>
Sent: 7/22/2016 10:22:33 AM
Subject: Agriculture briefing

President Schulz,

As I mentioned last week, we've been encountering a series of challenges with our agricultural stakeholders over the past several years and I wanted to give you some context in advance of your meeting next week with leaders from the industry.

As you know, the provost and I got separate calls from Sen. Schoesler over the July 4th weekend. Over the past several years, we have been involved in a string of research activities that has drawn the ire of the agricultural industry and they are compounding each other. Generally, these research initiatives have supported protections for cougars and wolves (upsetting the cattle industry which is seeing repeated losses from wolf/cougar attacks), promoted organic ag (to the chagrin of some in conventional ag who see it as wasteful as organic yields are lower), promoted the development of a multi-state wildlife corridor (taking ag land out of production to do it), and question the cost-benefits of new water storage projects. There have been other historical issues — primarily around water storage — that aggies haven't forgotten. In some cases, we've produced good research with unpopular results. In other cases, we've been done in by our own press releases that advance unpopular ideas by overstating the aims of our research (leaving the impression the university is advocating for a policy outcome). In a number of other cases, our researchers themselves leave the impression as advocates rather than objective scientists. The dairy industry has been frustrated that they funded the design of a new WSU dairy facility a decade ago and it's never been constructed (recession reduced what we receive in capital budget and the project never made it high enough on our priority list to get funded. We've recently developed a strategy to use \$1 million in minor works funding to make the most needed repairs/enhancements). Actual shortcomings on our part in any of these areas have made it easier to target all of them.

Sen. Schoesler has for the most part held his tongue through all of this and protected us from upset legislators. He hasn't sought to micromanage us to the degree that he could. But recently it was reported that a WSU faculty member who had endorsed a carbon tax initiative on the fall ballot wrote a research paper outlining its positive economic benefits. The ag industry is certain it would devastate the food processing industry. The initiative campaign publicized the paper (which had WSU branding all over it) assigning its thesis to the WSU School for Economic Sciences. This was the last straw for Sen. Schoesler who called to let us have it (the endorsement was recently retracted and chalked up to a misunderstanding but the damage has been done). This week I was taken to task on some of these issues by another member in a private 90-minute meeting in her district. Academic arguments about the marketplace of ideas and such are counterproductive here (we've been threatened with legislation

previously that would put new sideboards up on research activity and I'd rather not inspire that conversation).

Members get spun up as these things are all swirling among the ag stakeholders. This comes at a time when CAHNRS leadership is making a concerted effort to maintain and improve its relationships with the stakeholder community, particularly as we are pursuing two large capital budget construction requests (Plant Sciences Building and Global Animal Health II) that need the support of the ag industry.

There is simply no way you can be expected to know all the ins and outs of each specific circumstance by the time your meeting comes in Yakima on Thursday. But I think you can say (if any of this comes up) that you've been made aware there are some challenges. I think the one thing you can communicate either way is how important it is we get out of Pullman and build and sustain productive relationships with the individual industries. If we've got problems, we need the kind of relationship where stakeholders can pick up the phone and call the dean directly. We've got that relationship with some and not with others. I think CAHNRS and VetMed are making an effort to improve this across the board and things had been improving prior to the release of this recent paper on the carbon tax initiative. Dan did an excellent job of this when he was dean but it's hard to maintain, in part because the ag industry here is so incredibly diversified and geographically distributed, and takes commitment.

Jim Jesernig, who is one of our contract lobbyists (WSU alum who threw the discus for us back in the day) is a former state senator, an 8-year director of the state Department of Agriculture, and is now the state's premier ag lobbyist. He will be at the meeting but may have to leave early. You'll recognize him by his tall, lanky frame. You won't be quizzed on this but below is a summation of major issues facing the agriculture industry that Jim prepared for you.

I hope this helps.

A. WATER QUANTITY

- 1) Columbia-Snake Hydropower System
 - a) US/Canada Columbia River Treaty negotiations
 - ag concerned with what Canada may demand in a new Treaty
 - ag concerned that US negotiators will drive more water to fish
 - b) Federal Agency Biological Opinion (BiOp)
 - a federal judge in Portland actually runs the hydropower system
 - Judge's recent opinion invalidated the BiOp
 - ag extremely concerned that breaching the Snake River dams being revisited
 - c) negatively impact 700,000 acre Columbia Basin Project & 400,000 acres of direct river pumpers
- 2) Surface water to Odessa aquifer deep-well pumpers
 - aquifer has been "mined" since the 1960s, and many wells are extremely deep, and alkaline
 - 86,000 acres could receive surface water if regulatory hurdles are overcome
- 3) Yakima River Integrated Water Plan
 - new storage critical to "Junior" water rights holders because they are "cut off"
 - multibillion-dollar effort includes habitat restoration and water storage

– critical to the future of the 700,000 acre Yakima Project

Note: WSDA Director Derek Sandison, because of his previous work as the head of Ecology's Columbia River Office, is likely the single most knowledgeable person on all of these issues in Washington State.

B. WATER QUALITY

- 1) Department of Ecology proposing "voluntary" ag Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - ag extremely concerned that this is an effort to get an Ag Practices Act implemented
- 2) RCRA groundwater lawsuits against the dairy industry in the Yakima Valley
 - possibly devastating fines, lawsuits, etc. because of possible nitrogen/nitrate contamination
 - Ecology groundwater permit proposed to limit federal court lawsuits inserting state groundwater
 - aggressively opposed by the environmental community
- 3) Swinomish Tribe "What's Upstream" campaign funded by EPA
 - urged public to contact their legislators to implement anti-ag water runoff regulations
 - highly likely this campaign was illegal under federal law
 - Inspector General investigation is ongoing
 - Congressional Republicans highly critical

C LABOR AVAILABILITY

- 1) Without Immigration Reform, (highly unlikely) labor-intensive agriculture could be crippled
 - tree fruit, wine grapes, dairy, berries, NW WA truck farms

D. CARBON PRICING SYSTEMS – *All Would Devastate the Food Processing Industry*

- 1) Initiative – 732 (Carbon Tax) on the ballot this November
- 2) Cap & Trade System
 - Gov. Inslee unsuccessful in his attempts to implement this in his first term
 - Environmental/Labor coalition plans to run an initiative in 2018
- 3) Ecology's "Clean-Air Rule"
 - Proposed to be implemented in September
 - extensive litigation highly likely
- 4) No issue is more bitterly opposed by Washington ag organizations than this one

E. COMMODITY SPECIFIC ISSUES

- 1) Tree Fruit – all water quantity issues, labor availability, free trade
- 2) Dairy – carbon pricing, all water quality issues, but especially the RCRA groundwater issues
- 3) Wheat – Columbia/Snake River Hydropower BiOp's impact on Snake River dams for transportation
 - with 90% of Washington wheat exported, transportation & free trade are critical
- 4) Cattle – Wolf and cougar depredation, water quality issues
- 5) Potatoes – all water quality & quantity issues, carbon pricing systems

6) Wine Grapes, Hops, Berries – labor, all water quality & quantity issues, carbon pricing systems

Chris Mulick, '97
Director of State Relations
Washington State University
Office: (360) 534-2333
Cell: (253) 579-2461
chris.mulick@wsu.edu