



Government Affairs & Public Policy Meeting

Speaker(s): Mark Fitz, President of Star OilCo

Nurses' Strike and Fuel Costs Discussed

The meeting started with a discussion pertaining to the ongoing nurses' strike and its impact on healthcare providers. Rene King informed us that the strike will occur, and efforts are being made to ensure patient care. Mark Fitzpatrick, the CEO of Star Oil, was present to provide insights into the rising fuel costs in Oregon, which are causing concern among customers. The attendees introduce themselves, representing various organizations like Kaiser Permanente, Northwest Natural, and Miles Fiberglass. The discussion touched upon the complex regulatory environment in Oregon and its influence on healthcare and business operations.

Oregon's Climate Protection Program Impact

Mark discussed the impact of Oregon's climate protection program, which caps the market share for fossil fuels and promotes the use of renewable fuels. He noted that the program has led to a shortage of renewable diesel, causing prices to rise. He also mentioned that the program aims to connect with Quebec, Washington, and California, which have stricter carbon regulation standards. Nina added that the state legislature is considering bills to decarbonize home heating, which could limit the introduction of new technologies. Tina asked about the impact of these regulations on transportation costs, particularly for Trimet and Metro. Mark responded that Trimet still uses renewable diesel for some of its buses, but the majority of its fleet is not electric.

Decarbonization Challenges and Accountability

The Chamber discussed the challenges of decarbonization and the need for honest conversations about its implications. They highlighted the issue of Trimet's inconsistent approach to electric buses and the lack of accountability. The conversation also touched on the need for resilience in the face of natural disasters, with a focus on public safety and infrastructure. The team agreed on the importance of forming a coalition to address these issues and to have open discussions about the trade-offs involved in decarbonization. They also discussed the need for better communication and relationships with key stakeholders to ensure effective responses to emergencies.

Challenges of Electrification and Renewables

Nina and the Chamber discussed the challenges of moving towards electrification and renewable energy sources. Nina highlights the enormous costs and resources required to replace the existing energy system with batteries or solar panels. Jay pointed out the need for significant infrastructure upgrades to

accommodate increased electricity demand from electric vehicles and the uncertainty around maintaining affordable electricity rates. We also discussed the potential impact of national carbon requirements on the region's green energy credits. Overall, the discussion focuses on the massive scale and complexity of transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

Fuel Costs and Renewable Energy Discussion

The Chamber, Nina, and Tina discussed the challenges and potential solutions related to the increasing cost of fuel and the push for renewable energy sources. The group suggested that the cost of fuel could increase by 30-50 cents per gallon, depending on the blend. The group also discussed the potential for grants and collaborations to improve resilience and public safety. The Chamber mentioned the Columbia Willamette Clean Cities coalition and the possibility of joining it. The conversation also touched on the impact of fuel costs on private consumers and businesses, and the potential for changes in fuel requirements in the future.

Energy Infrastructure Challenges and Solutions

Tina discussed with the Chamber the challenges and inefficiencies of the current energy infrastructure, particularly in relation to gasoline prices and the use of internal combustion engines. Chris Hawes shared his experience with a city planning department that wanted to move a water-well, highlighting the lack of common sense in some government decisions. They also discussed the environmental impact of wind turbines, with Mark noting that they require significant maintenance and can catch fire. Tina then shared information about the county's electric vehicle charging stations, which have seen an average of 18 cars charged daily over the past six months. The conversation ended with Mark expressing his belief that incentives could be changed to promote more sustainable energy solutions.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Challenges

The group discussed the challenges and considerations around installing electric vehicle charging stations at gas stations and other facilities. Mark shared his experiences with the high costs of installing high-speed chargers and the uncertainty around charging times. He also compares the costs of installing traditional gas pumps. He expressed skepticism about the need for public charging stations when most electric vehicle owners charge at home. The discussion touched on emissions regulations that favor electric vehicles over other low-emission alternatives like natural gas vehicles. While electric vehicles are seen as the future, Mark believed a hybrid approach utilizing multiple fuel sources will be necessary in the near term.

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