



Government Affairs Committee AI Notes

Meeting Information

Event name	Jay Jennings (NMTA)'s Personal Meeting Room
Time	Mar 13, 2025, 10:25 AM - 11:20 AM (PDT)

Quick recap

Jay Jennings and Marsha discussed potential business interests and the importance of maintaining connections with their Roche Harbor location, while also addressing the challenges of the Pacific Northwest region in the Federal environment. The team also discussed various tax proposals, the supply chain competitiveness bill, and the ongoing issues with S. Dot. Lastly, they discussed the increasing use of AIS tracking information by Transport Canada to issue fines for violating sanctuary zones and the need for regulations to limit AIS use to vessel safety only.

Next steps

- Tarin and Jay to attend the American Boating Congress in DC from May 12th to 14th.
- Roman to testify at the vessel permit bill hearing at 4 pm today.
- Jay Balasbas to monitor upcoming budget proposals and tax plans from the majority party.
- Hobie and Sam to continue engaging with SDOT regarding the Route 40 loading zone issue.
- Monique to inform boaters about the Canadian interim sanctuary zones for Southern resident killer whales from June 1st to November 30th.
- Leonard to send out a letter regarding AIS misuse to NMTA, ARBA, and other relevant organizations.
- Arnie to follow up with Leonard about the AIS misuse letter and write an article on Best for Boats.
- Marsha to monitor and promote information about Canadian no-go zones on social media and to clients.
- NMTA team to consider reaching out to Garmin about improving chart representations of no-go zones.

Summaries

Roche Harbor Business and AI Discussion

Jay Jennings and Marsha discussed potential business interests and the importance of maintaining connections with their Roche Harbor location. Jay also introduced James and Wyatt to the meeting. Tarin informed the group about the upcoming American Boating Congress event in DC, emphasizing the importance of a strong representation from the Northwest and West Coast regions. Leonard proposed a new topic about AI and enforcement actions, which Jay agreed to discuss at the end of the meeting.

Pacific Northwest Federal Environment Challenges

Jay Jennings discussed the challenges of the Pacific Northwest region in the Federal environment and encouraged participation in the upcoming event in May. Roman provided updates on the vessel permit bill and the Aquatic Lands Lease Bill, mentioning that the latter would need to go back to the Senate for amendment. He also discussed the process of bill passage in the House and Senate, noting the significant changes in the Senate due to the departure of some moderates. Jay and Roman also discussed the potential impact of the paid family leave bill on small businesses.

License Fee Increase in Budget Proposals

Roman and Jay discussed the upcoming budget proposals from the Democrats, with Roman mentioning that the Senate Republicans have already put out a no new tax budget. Jay Balasbas then discussed the hunting and fishing license fee increase, mentioning that the Senate version has been narrowed down in terms of the agency's discretion to raise fees. Jay also mentioned that the House has introduced their own version of the fee increase. The team agreed that some level of license or fee increase is likely in the final budget, but the extent and authority to raise fees further on their own is still to be determined.

Tax Proposals and Law Enforcement Funding

Jay Balasbas discussed potential tax proposals, including a wealth tax on intangible assets and an increase in the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax. He also mentioned a proposal to extend sales tax on self-storage units and a payroll tax on high earners. Jay Jennings inquired about the 100 million dollars for law enforcement, which Jay Balasbas clarified was a proposal with two different approaches. The conversation ended with Jay Balasbas expressing concern about the possibility of a special session.

Supply Chain Competitiveness Bill Discussion

Jay, James, and Trevor discussed the supply chain competitiveness bill, which aims to create a grant program for port and port-adjacent infrastructure projects to strengthen the supply chain. They also touched on the industrial lands battle in Seattle, where the city council is considering rezoning an industrial area to welcome residential development. Jay expressed concerns about the impact of federal uncertainty on budget deliberations and the aluminum tariffs affecting boat manufacturers in Washington. Lastly, they discussed the permit processing challenges due to the upheaval at NOAA.

Route 40 Loading Zone Dispute

Sam and Hobie discussed the current status of the Route 40 loading zone, which is part of a protected agreement with the city of Seattle. However, Sdot continues to ignore historical agreements and move ahead with their plans, including the installation of an ADA accessible wheelchair ramp that obstructs the loading zone. Hobie mentioned that their lawyer is engaging with Sdot's lawyer and they are confident about the strength of their legal settlement. Jay suggested involving the city attorney, but Hobie has not seen her in the loop yet.

S. Dot Construction and Storm Water

Jay Jennings discussed the ongoing issues with S. Dot, including their attempts to stop construction and their dumping of storm water. Hobie shared his frustration with S. Dot's actions and their lack of accountability. Monique informed the team about a \$2,000 fine received from the Canadian Government for a vessel running through a no transit zone on Pender Island. She emphasized the importance of informing people about the interim sanctuary zones on Saturna and North Pender Island during the cruising season. Arnie clarified that these zones are indeed marked on navigation charts, but require a new chart chip for Canadian waters.

AIS Tracking and Sanctuary Zone Fines

Leonard discusses the increasing use of AIS tracking information by Transport Canada to issue fines for violating sanctuary zones. He explains that boaters are receiving enforcement letters months after alleged violations, often without clear evidence or appeal processes. Leonard is drafting a letter to various agencies calling for regulations to limit AIS use to vessel safety only, as its current enforcement use is deterring boaters from using this important safety tool. The group agrees this is a significant issue and discusses ways to better inform boaters about sanctuary zones and promote responsible AIS use.

Participants (23)

Find a participant

- Jay Jennings (NMTA) (Host)
- hobyone@msn.com
- Jay Balasbas
- Marsha
- Roman Daniels-Brown
- Arnie Hammerman
- Bob Wise
- Daniel Lolic (MMIA)
- DBIBBY
- Dennis Halpin
- Ian Wilkinson
- James Cockburn - WPPA
- James Weaver - Port of Bremerton
- John Dumas
- John's iPhone (3)
- Leonard Landon
- Monique Webber - Superyacht Northwest
- Sam LeClercq
- Tarin
- TJ Quandt
- Trevor Justin
- William Devoe