Talking to Your Legislators; It’s Like Talking to Your Neighbors

Representative Dan Griffey, 35th Legislative District
Tommy Bauer, Office of United States Senator Maria Cantwell
John Holdsworth, Community Transit
Scott McDougall, Pacific County Emergency Management Agency
Dan Griffey was elected in 2014 to the Washington State Legislature where he currently serves on the Public Safety, Transportation, and is the assistant ranking member on Local Government Committees. He also serves on numerous statutory committees. Dan was instrumental in passing the bill to end the Statute of Limitations on felony sex crimes and is currently working on legislation to address crime, the mental health and homelessness crisis as well as legislation to support the heroic efforts of those in emergency management.

Dan Griffey retired as a career firefighter June 1st, 2022, after over 30 years of service. He has four children and five grandchildren. He has been married to his supportive wife Dinah for 30 years.

As a dedicated public servant, Dan is committed to ensuring our first responders have every tool needed at their disposal. His priorities are communication, funding, and support services. As a first responder, Dan is aware of the complications that can arise on a scene and that no two situations are the same. He takes that into account when developing strategies in the legislature to support those tasked with emergency management as they assist our citizens.

We are living in difficult and unpredictable times. It is unfair to say that we have challenges when it comes to protecting our most vulnerable. Those in the emergency management field have been tasked with nearly impossible standards and those that remain in the profession are truly dedicated. Dan is never willing to ask someone to do what he would not volunteer to do himself. That being said, he is proud of your service to Washington State.
John Holdsworth is the Assistant Manager of Emergency Management & Business Continuity at Community Transit. Prior to Community Transit, John worked as the Planning Program Manager for Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management where he oversaw a wide variety of emergency planning programs. John helped manage the county’s response to a number of emergencies and disasters including winter storms, floods, the opioid epidemic and COVID-19. Prior to Snohomish County, John worked in a variety of emergency management roles in Southern California. John holds a Master of Science in Emergency Services Administration from California State University, Long Beach where his research and thesis focused on private-public partnerships and catastrophic supply chain resilience.
Scott McDougall is the Director of the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency in South Bend, WA. Scott has worked for Pacific County since 2013. Prior to his time with Pacific County, Scott served as a Firefighter/EMT for the City of Raymond and retired from the Raymond Fire Department as Fire Marshal and Training Officer and was a Washington State Senior EMS Instructor.

Scott spent 14 years as a board member for Willapa Harbor Hospital in South Bend where he was heavily involved in legislative affairs. He is currently serving on the Washington Emergency Management Advisory Group as a representative for small counties and as the chair of the Legislative Committee for the Washington State Emergency Management Association. He is also a member of the Executive Board for the American Red Cross Southwest Washington Chapter.

Scott and his wife Tammy live in South Bend with their three dogs and have 11 grandchildren with a twelfth due in November.
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REPRESENTATIVE DAN GRIFFEY 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
TOMMY BAUER, STATE DIRECTOR FOR SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL
JOHN HOLDSWORTH, PROGRAM MANAGER, COMMUNITY TRANSIT
SCOTT MCDOUGALL, DIRECTOR, PCEMA
WHY DO WE NEED TO ENGAGE IN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY?

- **The role of emergency management is often misunderstood at all levels of government.**
- **We have a responsibility to the people we serve.**
- **Our leaders consider legislation that has a direct impact on the job we do and on the people we serve on a daily basis.**
- **Who better to educate our leaders than the people who do the work everyday?**
A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

• THE PEOPLE WHO GOVERN US ARE CHOSEN BY US
• THEY ARE LITERALLY OUR NEIGHBORS, IN MANY INSTANCES OUR FRIENDS
• LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY MAY SEEM INTIMIDATING, BUT, WHEN WE REMEMBER WE ARE TALKING TO OUR NEIGHBORS, IT SHOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATING
SO, HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

- **Know your subject matter, know your issues**
- **Have specific talking points that are important for making your voice and thoughts heard**
- **Research exactly who you need to talk to**
  - Bill sponsor
  - Your district legislator
- **Choose the correct forum – local, state, federal, but keep everyone in the loop**
IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

• **Put your personal politics and biases aside, have a non-partisan approach**
• **Stick to those talking points, but, be flexible**
• **Respect their time**
• **Be assertive, not pushy**
• **Like all facets of emergency management, build blue sky relationships so when gray skies come you have an established person to turn to**
• **Don’t let a serious situation be the first time you meet your legislative partners**
THANK YOU