



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-05 and RESCINDING 20-56, et seq.**

20-56.9

Governor's Office – Tribal Fuel Tax Refund Restrictions

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, I have subsequently issued several amendatory proclamations, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic, has broadly spread throughout Washington State, significantly increasing the threat of serious associated health risks statewide; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a global economic slowdown and an economic downturn resulting in significant reductions in business activities and affecting the sources of revenue of Indian tribes with reservations located in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, acting pursuant to authority granted by RCW 82.38.310(1), current and prior governors have entered into agreements with Indian tribes relating to refunds by the state of a percentage of fuel taxes collected by tribes and remitted to the state; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 82.38.310(3)(b), agreements between the governor and tribes related to fuel tax refunds are required to contain, and do contain, provisions restricting tribes' use of fuel tax refunds to highway- and transportation-related purposes; and

WHEREAS, tribes have informed the Governor's Office that such provisions are preventing, hindering, and delaying tribes' ability to use fuel tax refund money as tribes determine is most appropriate to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and have requested a waiver of provisions contained in agreements between the tribes and the Governor's Office restricting tribes' use of fuel tax refunds to specified transportation-related purposes; and

WHEREAS, to assist tribes' ability to use fuel tax refunds as each has determined is most effective to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, I issued Proclamation 20-56 to waive or suspend statutory

requirements that agreements between tribes and the Governor's Office contain restrictions on tribes' use of fuel tax refunds and to waive or suspend any such contractual restrictions; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-56, et seq., have been periodically extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives, and which I have acknowledged and similarly extended the waivers and suspensions of provisions in contracts in subsequent sequentially numbered proclamations; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2021, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-56, et seq., were extended by Senate Concurrent Resolution 8402 until the termination of the state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.210, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, although the COVID-19 disease continues to persist as an ongoing and present threat in Washington State, the measures we have taken together as Washingtonians over the past 26 months, including the willingness of Washingtonians to take advantage of the remarkable, life-saving vaccines being administered throughout the state, have made a difference and have altered the course of the pandemic in fundamental ways; and

WHEREAS, although Department of Health statistics reflect the continued persistence of COVID-19 and support the continuation of the state of emergency, health experts and epidemiological modeling experts believe that as a state we have made adequate progress against COVID-19 to rescind and/or modify amendatory proclamations related to specific health issues and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health continues to maintain a Public Health Incident Management Team in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and other supporting state agencies to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, through the State Emergency Operations Center, continues coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local health officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continues coordinating with the Department of Health in assessing the impacts and long-term effects of the incident on Washington State and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamations 20-05 and all amendments thereto remain in effect, and that Proclamation 20-56, et seq., is terminated and rescinded effective at 12:01 A.M. on July 1, 2022.

I again direct that the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented throughout state government. State agencies and departments are directed to continue utilizing state resources and doing everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The

