

Legislative Update

2.8.2017



Audubon Washington's weekly legislative update highlights issues and policies related to our state [conservation priorities](#).

- The 105 day 2017 regular Legislative Session runs from January 9 to April 23, 2017.
- Audubon Washington legislative updates are posted on [our website](#).
- Find up-to-date legislative information at the Washington State Legislature [site](#).
- Identify and contact your legislators via [this map](#).
- **Sign Up for [Audubon Advocacy Day](#) in Olympia on February 21st!**

Question? Please contact the Chapter Conservation Manager at jsyrowitz@audubon.org, 206-652-2444 x108.

Our state-wide conservation priorities guide our interest in proposed bills. Bills that we are currently monitoring include the following:

CLIMATE/CARBON PRICING

- [SB 5127/HB 1555](#) - Establishing a carbon pollution tax and investment program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate the transition to a clean energy economy, and invest in K-12 education and other vital public services. **SUPPORT**
- [HB 1646/SB 5509](#) - Promoting an equitable clean energy economy by creating a carbon tax that allows investment in clean energy, clean air, healthy forests, and Washington's communities. **SUPPORT**
- [SB 5385](#) - Creating a fossil fuel carbon pollution tax, which would pay for the clean energy economy and other vital services. **OPPOSE**
- [HB 1372](#) - Updating the framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Washington based upon best available climate science. **SUPPORT**
- [HB 1144](#) - Amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change science. **SUPPORT**

CLEAN ENERGY

- [HB 1048](#) - Promoting a sustainable, local renewable energy industry through modifying renewable energy system tax incentives and providing guidance for renewable energy system component recycling. **SUPPORT**
- [HB 1334](#) - Concerning the energy independence act. **SUPPORT**

- [HB 1249](#) - Recognizing hydroelectricity as an eligible renewable resource in the energy independence act. **OPPOSE**
- [SB 5232](#) - Allowing incremental electricity produced as a result of efficiency improvements to hydroelectric generation projects whose energy output is marketed by the Bonneville power administration to qualify as an eligible renewable resource under the energy independence act. **OPPOSE**
- [SB 5128](#) - Allowing incremental electricity produced as a result of certain capital investment projects to qualify as an eligible renewable resource under the energy independence act. **OPPOSE**

FOREST HEALTH and FIRE RESILIENCY

- *NEW* [SB 5546](#) - Concerning proactively addressing wildfire risk by creating a forest health treatment assessment. **SUPPORT**
- *NEW* [HB 1799](#) - Utilizing cooperative agreements with the federal government, such as good neighbor agreements with the United States forest service, to advance forest health in Washington. **SUPPORT**

WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- [SB 5024](#) - Concerning groundwater supply availability in areas with ground and surface water interaction. **SUPPORT**
- [SB 5239](#) - Ensuring that water is available to support development. **OPPOSE**
- [HB 1382](#) - Establishing a rebuttable presumption that permit-exempt groundwater withdrawals do not impair instream flows or base flows. **OPPOSE**
- *NEW* [HB 1348](#) - Concerning the priority in the state water code assigned to various beneficial uses. **OPPOSE**
- *NEW* [HB 1885](#) - Clarifying the roles of state and local governments in the regulation and mitigation of water resources. **OPPOSE**

SAFE OIL TRANSPORT

- [HB 1611](#) - Concerning oil transportation safety. **SUPPORT**
- [SB 5462](#) - Concerning oil transportation safety. **SUPPORT**
- [HB 1210/SB 5425](#) - Strengthening funding for oil spill programs in Washington by increasing revenue to the oil spill prevention account. **SUPPORT**

POLLUTION CLEAN UP

- [HB 1663/ SB 5501](#) - Concerning imposing a surtax on the possession of hazardous substances. **SUPPORT**

HABITAT CONSERVATION

- [SB 5171](#) - Concerning certain uses of state-owned aquatic lands. **OPPOSE**

- *NEW* [HB 1009](#) - Clarifying that the authority to mitigate environmental impacts under the state environmental policy act applies only to significant adverse environmental impacts. **OPPOSE**
- *NEW* [HB 1008](#) - Concerning the acquisition of land by state natural resources agencies. **OPPOSE**
- *NEW* [HB 1103](#) - Concerning the transfer of federal land to the state. **OPPOSE**
- *NEW* [HB 1017](#) - Addressing the siting of schools and school facilities. **OPPOSE**
- *NEW* [HB 1597](#) - Increasing revenue to the state wildlife account by increasing commercial fishing license fees and streamlining wholesale fish dealing, buying, and selling requirements. **SUPPORT**