



Week Four: Is your bill dead or alive?



For those who don't follow the bizarre workings of the Legislature, you might not realize the importance of this fourth week of the session. It is similar to saying: "Last call... or your bill is dead!" This week both house and senate committees were required to move proposed legislation from the policy committee, otherwise those bills were dead. To date there were 1,231 new bills submitted for consideration. That means the Legislative committees had to decide to hear public testimony, consider the bill and vote it out... or not.

The bills that are "still in play" and are supported by the

environmental community are grouped into three categories. Below are some highlights from the three groups of bills, but check out the detailed list at the end of this *Bird's Eye View*.

Keeping Families Healthy and Moving

HB 2327 – Green House Gas Mitigation

Provides that every energy facility that submits an application for an energy facility site certification is responsible for permanently mitigating in Washington all of their greenhouse gas emissions at actual market cost. Declares that a new energy facility that generates all of its energy without using fossil fuels is exempt from this act. We support this legislation because it will maintain our clean air in Washington.

HB 2440 - Transportation and Land Use Must be Integrated

This bill has passed out of committee and is in the rules committee. We support HB 2440 because it makes common sense to require integrating transportation and land use planning. Plus, it requires that, in any project funded by the transportation improvement board, they need to consider the land use implications of the project, such as whether the programs and projects: support revitalization of existing downtowns; implement local comprehensive plans for rural and urban residential and nonresidential densities; include regulations which encourage compact development at appropriate residential and nonresidential densities; and promote multi-modal transportation.

HB 2686 – Mercury Bill

This bill is expected to pass out of committee and into Rules. In spite of opposition from the dental association, we hope it continues moving through the Legislature because this bill will significantly reduce the cumulative effects of mercury in our environment, improve public awareness of mercury pollution, and



help us all properly disposal of mercury. If HB 2686 passes, it will improve the collection, removal and disposal of mercury products to improve the health of our families and our local river basins.

SB 6718 – State Government Should be a Leader in Clean Energy Consumption

This bill proposes that the state develop a policy to meet its energy needs with no net emissions of greenhouse gases. State government should take immediate, short-term steps to limit the emissions from electricity consumption while developing a long-term, cost-effective strategy to reach the goal of no net emissions. We support this bill because it is time for the State to show the way to private business on how to save energy and stop emitting greenhouse gases.

Healthy Neighborhoods, Smart Kids, and Clean Technology

HB 2397 - Establishes a State Organic Foods Program
We support this bill because it finally establishes standards governing the labeling and advertising of organically produced agricultural commodities. It also provides certification under the Federal Organic Food Act. One of the best parts about this bill is that it helps our organic farmers by giving them access to domestic and international markets for organic food products. And last but not least, it establishes a state organic program under the Federal Organic Food Production Act of 1990.

SB 6598 – Education Fund for Our Kids about Wildlife and Natural Science

This bill sets up a grant program at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for non-profit organizations who want to do more education about nature, wildlife, habitat or natural science. The bill does not have any funding yet, but the Governor's Council on Environmental Education will be researching how to get funding in the upcoming year. This bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee and is on its way to Rules.

SB 6356 – Children's Environmental Health Advisory Council

The Legislature recognizes that children face many preventable exposures to environmental hazards in their schools, homes, and communities. In certain cases, children are at even greater risk than adults for exposure to and possible illness from environmental hazards. HB 2885 also recognizes that children's behaviors (playing outside!) and also their decreased ability to detoxify certain substances due to the immaturity of their body organs and immune systems, places them at greater risk from environmental pollution. In this bill, the legislature acknowledges that higher rates of poverty place children of ethnic and minority communities at disproportionate risk for environmental exposures. These children have inadequate housing, poor nutrition, and limited access to health care. The new Advisory Council has three main tasks:

1. Review and comment on existing rules, regulations, and standards to protect children's health from environmental hazards;
2. Gather and disseminate information to the public, including the research and medical communities, community-based organizations, schools, and state agencies, on how to reduce, treat, and eliminate children's exposures to environmental hazards; and
3. Report to the governor by December 1, 2002 (and each December thereafter) with recommendations on changes in regulation that would reduce children's exposure to environmental hazards.

HB 2506 – Green Buildings (Not Sprawl !)

This bill requires that a statewide task force evaluate local and national low-impact development programs. It would identify how the state government can play a positive role





in facilitating local efforts to meet public demand for more livable communities and to reduce the environmental and social costs of our current development practices. This is a great bill and would help our local governments and development community build better, smarter houses and communities. We can all do without the sprawl that takes over our neighborhoods.

Supporting Washington Farmers, Salmon and Outdoor Recreation

HB 2329 and SB 6484 Conservation Easements

If property is managed by a trust then it can be donated as a qualified conservation easement (as defined by the Internal Revenue Code) to “obtain the benefit of the estate tax exclusion allowed” under IRS rules. This is a good bill to help property stay in open space for bird and wildlife habitat.

HB 2657 – State Must Buy Washington Products

Provides that the director of general administration, must require that, if available and competitively priced, Washington fruit, vegetables, and agricultural products be purchased for use in state institutions and state-supported

facilities. This will help our Washington Farmers and keep our local economies healthy.

HB 2722 – Consistent standards for fish guards at dams

Establishes consistent standards for fish guards, fish screens, and fish bypasses that apply in an identical manner to both food fish and game fish. This bill requires Fish and Wildlife to set up the same types of fish guards that will help keep salmon and other fish survive a fish barrier like dams.

SB 6257 – More environmental protection for contract timber harvesting

Senators Ken Jacobsen and Bob Oke sponsored a bill to require the Department of Natural Resources to look for ways to increase revenues AND add environmental protection on timber sales. The Legislature wants DNR to use contract harvesting as one method to get both outcomes.

The following bills are supported by the Environmental Community:

Keeping Families Healthy and Moving

– Bill Id–	– Title–	– Status–	– Date–	– Sponsor–
E SHB 2359	Regional transportation	Senate Transportation	02-04-02	TR (Fisher)
HB 2440	Transportation/land use plan	House Rules C	02-08-02	Romero
HB 2686	Mercury reduction/education	House Ag & Ecology	01-23-02	Hunt
SSB 6619	Climate & energy center	Senate EEW DPIS	02-08-02	EEW (Poulsen)
SB 6737	Watershed plans	Senate EEW DP	02-08-02	Fraser
SSB 6765	Water resource management	Senate EEW DPIS	02-08-02	EEW (Fraser)

Healthy Neighborhoods, Smart Kids, and Clean Technology

– Bill Id–	– Title–	– Status–	– Date–	– Sponsor–
SHB 2376	Derelict vessels	House Appropriations	02-08-02	NR (Rockefeller)
HB 2397	Organic food products	House 2nd Reading	02-08-02	Linville
HB 2506	Green building task force	House Ag & Ecology	01-18-02	Romero
SHB 2566	Clean alt fuel vehicles	House Finance	02-05-02	AGEC (Linville)
2SSB 5104	Cnty conservatn futures levy	Senate 2nd Reading	02-07-02	NPS (Carlson)
E SSB 5748	Transportation/land use plan	House Transportation	01-17-02	TRAN (McAuliffe)
SSB 6284	Air pollution/vehicles	Senate Rules 2	02-08-02	EEW (Jacobsen)
SSB 6285	Air pollution/vehicles	Senate Ways & Means	02-04-02	EEW (Regala)
SSB 6331	Conservations futures levy	Senate Rules 2	02-07-02	NPS (Poulsen)
SSB 6356	Children/environmentl health	Senate Ways & Means	02-08-02	HEA (Franklin)
SSB 6400	Biodiversity conservation	Senate Rules 2	02-07-02	NPS (Jacobsen)
SSB 6450	Clean energy/clean vehicles	Senate Rules 2	02-06-02	
SB 6632	International trade	Senate Rules 2	02-07-02	Prentice



Healthy Neighborhoods, Smart Kids, and Clean Technology (cont.)

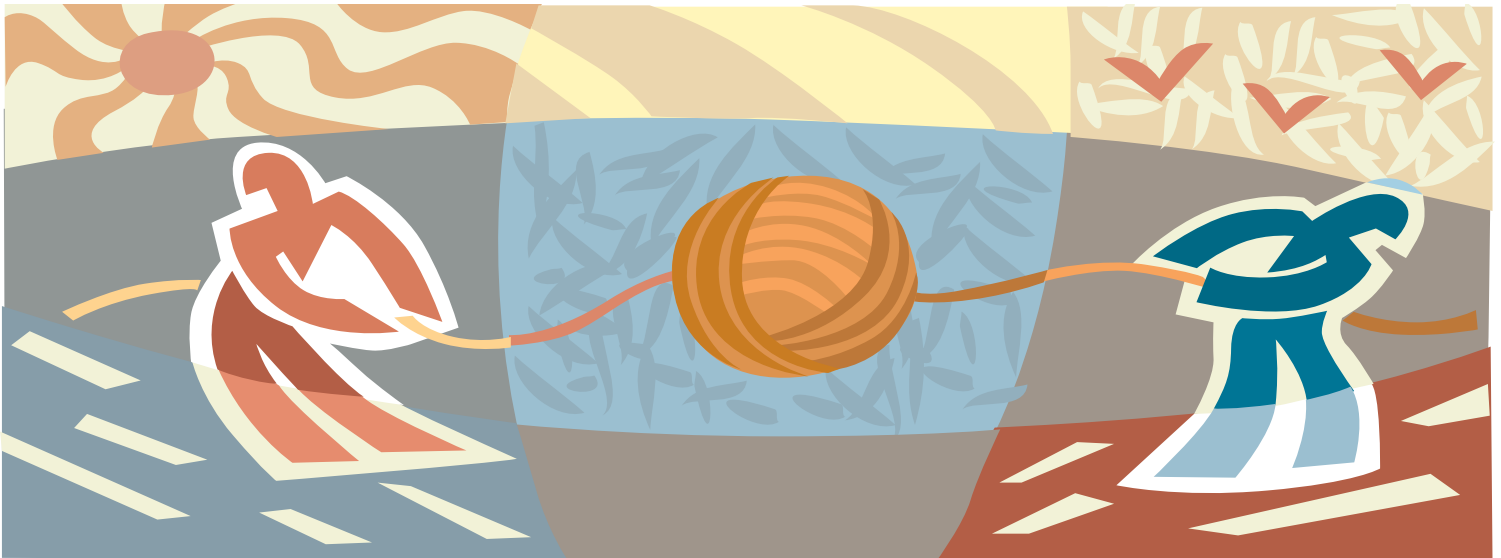
– Bill Id–	– Title–	– Status–	– Date–	– Sponsor–
SSB 6697	Ultra-fuel efficient vehicle	Senate EEW DPIS	02-08-02	EEW (Finkbeiner)
SJM 8005	Vessel safety standards	Senate 2nd Reading	02-07-02	Fraser
SB 6765	Water resource management	Senate Environment/Energy/Water	02-01-02	Fraser

Supporting Washington Farmers, Salmon and Outdoor Recreation

– Bill Id–	– Title–	– Status–	– Date–	– Sponsor–
HB 2288	Environmental mitigation	House 2nd Reading	02-04-02	Fisher
SHB 2311	Small forest landowners	House Appropriations	01-28-02	NR (Doumit)
HB 2329	Conservation easements	House 2nd Reading	02-04-02	Lantz
SHB 2341	Wildlife/damage to crops	House Rules C	02-04-02	NR (Eickmeyer)
HB 2375	Trust lands	House Rules C	02-04-02	Rockefeller
HB 2498	Industrial land banks	House Rules R	02-05-02	Fromhold
HB 2669	Animal waste/energy resource	House Rules R	02-07-02	Linville
SSB 6313	Derelict fishing gear	Senate Rules 2 G	02-07-02	NPS (Oke)
SSB 6329	Emmission control inspection	Senate Rules 2	02-01-02	
SB 6484	Conservation easements	Senate Rules 2	02-06-02	Haugen
SSB 6553	Invasive aquatic species	Senate Rules 2 G	02-07-02	NPS (Poulsen)
SJM8030	Puget Sound	Senate Rules 2	02-04-02	Jacobsen

List of Bills Audubon Opposes

– Bill Id–	– Title–	– Status–	– Date–	– Sponsor–
SHB 1005	Public utility rights-of-way	House Rules R	02-07-02	
SHB 2591	Roads across aquatic lands	House Rules R	02-08-02	NR (Hatfield)
HB 2623	Shoreline management	House Rules R	02-08-02	Grant
SSB 6474	Agency land purchases	Senate Rules 2	02-07-02	NPS (Morton)
SSB 6767	Shoreline management	Senate Rules 2	02-07-02	NPS (Snyder)



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