



The state legislature called it a wrap on the 2018 session late last week. Here's where the issues we worked on ended up.

### **Climate Action - NOT!**

Despite strong policy, grassroots, and [communication](#) efforts, we were not able to overcome powerful industries and utilities lobbying against carbon reduction policies and make any progress on climate this session. The **low carbon fuel standard** ([HB 2338](#)) stalled in the House early in the session. The Governor's **carbon tax** ([SB 6203](#)) could not attract enough votes to move out of the Senate, despite numerous concessions to various interests and exemptions for most businesses. Our **100% clean energy bill** ([HB 2995](#)) made it through policy and finance committees and onto floor calendars in both the House and Senate at various times during the session, but in the end, was not brought up for a vote in either body. The final days of session saw nearly 50 amendments filed against it in the House when most of the utilities in the state went full force against it, guaranteeing there wouldn't be time to debate all of them before the clock ran out. [Read our press release here.](#)

While we're disappointed at this lack of climate action, we won't let it stop us from continuing to build the legislative gumption and grassroots power necessary to act on climate in our state. It looks like the next bite at the apple will come from an initiative to the people, [I-1631](#) which seeks to enact a carbon fee and invest in clean energy solutions for Washington state. We will be in close touch about this effort in the coming weeks.

### **Atlantic salmon net pen aquaculture**

Spurred to action by our chapters, we worked with a broad coalition to pass [HB 2957](#) and successfully phase out non-native fish farming in Washington state by 2022. The bill also provides some funding for our agencies to increase assessments of structural integrity at existing facilities and update the state guidance on net pen aquaculture. **This is a huge win for Washington's birds and marine ecosystem**, decreasing pollution and disease risks, and enabling agencies to focus on the conservation of our native species.

### **Fire protection in eastern Washington**

Our rangeland wildfire protection association legislation ([HB 2562](#)) did not move out of the House this session. Though it was developed in consultation with ranchers and other landowners in eastern WA, we ran into opposition from the Firefighters Union. We will continue to explore this issue over the summer with stakeholders to see if it is possible to develop a robust, bipartisan policy that empowers people and protects habitat and communities from increasing wildfire events.

### **Oil spill prevention**

With our friends in the Environmental Priorities Coalition, the oil transportation safety bill ([SB 6269](#)) was once again strengthened. The bill closes a tax loophole for oil moving by pipeline, requires an update to oil spill contingency plans, mandates a large-scale oil spill drill every three years, and establishes a Salish Sea water summit to address transboundary oil transport risks and protections.

### **Marbled Murrelet solutions**

To support the long-term recovery efforts of the marbled murrelet, the legislature passed [HB 2285](#). This bill creates a reporting process to the legislature on the Department of Natural Resources' progress regarding the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy, and the opportunities identified by Commissioner Franz's Solutions Table to offset any economic impacts on rural communities. A coalition of groups continues to advocate for a conservation strategy that will ensure the bird's survival while also maintaining the economic health of communities.

[Final Bill Summary](#)

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Gatton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Gatton  
VP & Executive Director  
Audubon Washington