

BILLS IMPORTANT TO THOSE INTERESTED IN GLOBAL WARMING

League of Women Voters, Washington
Current Status-February 25, 2003

ENERGY

HB 1544 SUPPORT The bill establishes energy efficiency (0.75% now and 0.85% annually by 2010) and renewable energy (15% by 2023) standards for Washington electric utilities. The expected benefits include job creation, economic development, especially in rural Eastern Washington, increase in local tax revenues, additional income for farmers with the added benefits of stable electricity prices, reduced reliance on foreign oil and fewer greenhouse gas emissions. **An excellent bill that needs your voice to your legislators to get it voted out of committee.** See list of committee members below.

HB 1703 SUPPORT This bill provides tax incentives to promote the production and distribution of electricity from alternative sources of energy. Was heard in committee. **BOTH THE ABOVE BILLS SHOULD BE PASSED AS A PACKAGE.** The two bills together will be better than either alone to insure efficiency is included.

HB 1775 CONCERNS Creates a committee to investigate the operational, economic and regulatory obstacles to renewable resources development. This could be a poor substitute for the above stronger bills.

HB 2119 SUPPORT Establishes WA Climate Action Registry. A voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions registry with the goal of creating a framework so businesses or government agencies that take steps to improve energy efficiency and/or convert to cleaner technologies to reduce carbon dioxide and other GHG emissions can participate in emissions trading programs. An official registry will establish a creditable document which can be used to sell the credits resulting from reductions in emissions in countries that have signed the Kyoto Protocol, such as Canada. The second goal is to provide an official record of annual emissions so the federal government will recognize the early actions of Washington firms when a mandatory federal program is established. **Hearing scheduled for Monday, February 3rd, 6-8 PM in the House Tech, Tele & Energy. Please testify, email or call the Legislative Hotline (1-800-562-6000) to support HB 2119. Testimony has the greatest impact!** Committee members listed below. SB 5945 is the companion bill, but it has not been scheduled for a hearing.

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1441 SUPPORT Gives tax exemptions for a new motor vehicle that has an average gas mileage at least twice the national average (or 42 mpg) for new passenger cars purchased from a dealer. Passed out of committee and now in Finance Committee.

SB 5386 Neutral Similar to the next bill, but requires the hybrid vehicles to have a fuel efficiency of 45 MPG. Includes a component that requires WSDOT to work with Federal Highway Administration to allow hybrid vehicles in special lanes regardless of the number of occupants.

SB 5469 SUPPORT Businesses that purchase or lease clean, alternative fuel vehicles for a period of three years and are used exclusively in business operations can get tax credits. Heard, but still in committee.

SB 5467 and HB 1467 SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT SB5467 Sales and Use Tax Incentives for Alternative Vehicles, Fuel & Equipment. HB 1467 Providing incentives for the purchase of hybrid and fuel cell vehicles. These bills would take the tax off vehicles originally designed and equipped by the manufacturer to operate as a hybrid or a fuel cell, natural gas, propane, hydrogen or electricity. The problem with HB1467 is that the incentives extend to the new SUV hybrids with mpg reported to only increase by 10%. Instead of specifying all hybrid cars, **the bill should be amended to provide incentives for purchasing vehicles with a fuel efficiency that more than doubles (42 mpg) the current average miles per gallon.** With this amendment, both are excellent bills. Both bills remain in committee.

SB 5863 SUPPORT Fee on passenger vehicles exceeding six thousand pounds. In order to encourage cleaner, fuel efficient vehicles, the gross weight must be considered. Additionally, the fee shall be deposited into the multimodal transportation account. Remains in Highways and Transportation Committee.

BIODIESEL FUEL

Biodiesel made from crops such as rape seed, mustard seed, or soy, when blended (20%) with ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, can be made 90 % emission-free if used in a vehicle equipped with a particle filter. The

biodiesel-producing crops can be grown on Washington farms and are self-seeding, helping to prevent soil erosion and soil loss. Four biodiesel bills have been passed by the House Transportation Committee.

HB & SHB1240 SUPPORT Tax Incentives for Biodiesel and Alcohol Fuel Production. Heard in Finance Committee.

HB & SHB 1241 SUPPORT Tax Incentives for the Distribution and Sale of Biodiesel and Alcohol Fuels. Heard in Finance Committee. Encourage House Finance Committee members to pass all four bills to floor.

HB & SHB1242 SUPPORT Establishing requirements for the use of biodiesel by state agencies and **HB & SHB 1243 SUPPORT** A biodiesel pilot program for school buses. Neither bill would cost the state money (non-state funding has been offered for 1243) and both would help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and would boost the farming economy in Eastern Washington. All four will create jobs and add revenue for the cities and counties where established and for the state as well. These two bills are in the Rules Committee and need to be passed out for House floor debate.

NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES

SB 5450/HB1438 SUPPORT Licensing and using zero-emissions vehicles on designated community streets is an excellent way to begin solving our air pollution problems and educating the public about acceptable solutions to global warming. Their main use will be for the short daily, highly polluting trips people make within their communities such as taking children to school or running errands. SB 5450 is in Rules Com and HB 1438 remains in Transportation Com.

HOV LANES

SB 5468/HB 1818 NEUTRAL Use of High-occupancy Vehicle Lanes by Vehicles with Low Emissions. Under this bill the Department of Transportation opens the HOV lanes to single-occupant inherently low-emission vehicles when the addition of these vehicles would not unduly contribute to congestion. Directs the Department of Transportation to study how any existing high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane program or value pricing pilot program may be expanded to include vehicles whose combined city and highway average gasoline mileage is at least twice the national average. Both bills remain in committees.

SB 5605 OPPOSE This bill would allow ALL single occupant vehicles to use the HOV lanes after the payment of \$500 annually to be deposited in the motor vehicle account. Clean vehicles should be allowed in first and all revenue should be spent only on public transport or other forms of transit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Still in committee.

SB 5121 OPPOSE This bill would prevent WSDOT from imposing any restrictions on the use of HOV lanes except during two brief "rush hour" periods, namely, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. League testified in opposition. Designating such rush hours would discourage use of HOV lanes by carpools, vanpools, and bus commuters. Regional growth is predicted to fill HOV lanes within five years even in corridors that are presently underused. Finally, the HOV lanes depend on federal funding which the state would have to refund if such legislation is passed. This bill has been heard and awaits a vote of the committee.

COMMUTE TRIP REDUCTION PROGRAM (CTRP)

SB 5340 OPPOSE Gov. Locke's budget eliminated the funding allocated for the highly successful CTRP program. This bill makes the program voluntary rather than mandatory and permanently removes state funding. To date the program has eliminated approximately 20,000 vehicles from the highways during the most congested times of day and its success increased 12% between 1999 and 2001. Instead of modifying this program, we need to ensure it is fully funded for the next biennium. Still in Highways and Transportation Committee.

GREEN PROJECTS

HB 1171 SUPPORT Establish green buildings program by requiring major government facilities and state-funded schools to use the "silver standard" or "certified standard" of the U. S. green building council leadership in energy and environmental design for new construction and major renovation projects. **An excellent bill to improve energy, water and materials efficiency while providing healthy and comfortable indoor environments and long-term benefits.** Remains in House Capital Budget Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DISTRICTS

House Capital Budget: Hans Dunshee, 44; Sam Hunt 22; Gary Alexander 20; Skip Priest 30; Armstrong, 12; Benson, 6; Blake, 19; Bush, 2; Chase, 32; Flannigan, 27; Hankins, 8; Hinkle, 13; Kirby, 29; Lantz, 26; Mastin, 16; McIntire, 46; Morrell, 49; Murray, 43; Newhouse, 15; O'Brien, 1; Orcutt, 18, Schoesler, 9; Veloria, 11; Woods, 23.

House Finance : Jeff Gombosky, 3; Jim McIntire, 46; Jack Cairnes, 47; Ed Orcutt, 18; Ahern, 6; Conway, 29; Morris, 40; Roach, 31; Santos, 37.

House Rules: Frank Chopp, 43; Cathy McMorris, 7; Bush, 2; Clements, 14; DeBolt, 20; Eickmeyer, 35; Grant, 16; Haigh, 35; Hatfield, 19; Hunt, 22; Jarrett, 41; Kessler, 24; Kirby, 29; Lovick, 44; McDonald, 25; Pearson, 39; Ruderman, 45; Santos, 37; Woods, 23.

House Technology, Telecommunications and Energy Committee: Jeff Morris, 40; Laura Ruderman, 45; Brian Sullivan, 21; Larry Crouse, 4; Toby Nixon, 45; Glenn Anderson, 5; Brian Blake, 19; Roger Bush, 2; Richard DeBolt, 20; Jerome Delvin, 8; Zack Hudgins, 11; Steve Kirby, 29; Lois McMahan, 26; Sandra Romero, 22; Rodney Tom, 48; Deb Wallace, 17; Alex Wood, 3.

House Transportation Committee: Ed Murray, Chair 43; Geoff Simpson, Vice Chair 47; Phil Rockefeller, Vice Chair 23; Ericksen 42; Jarrett 41; Anderson 5; Armstrong 12; Bailey 10; Campbell 2; Clibborn 41; Cooper 21; Dickerson 36; Edwards 1; Flannigan 27; Hankins 8; Hatfield 19; Hudgins 11; Kristiansen 39; Lovick 44; Mielke 18; Morris 40; Nixon 45; Romero 22; Schindler 4; Shabro 31; Sullivan 21; Wallace 17; Wood 3; Woods 23.

Senate Highways and Transportation Committee members: Jim Horn, Chair 41; Don Benton, Vice Chair 17; Dan Swecker, Vice Chair 20; Haugen 10; Jacobsen 46; Esser 48; Finkbeiner 45; Kastama 25; Mulliken 13; Oke 26; Prentice 11; Spanel 40.

Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water: Bob Morton, 7; Mike Hewitt, 16; Karen Fraser, 22; Doumit, 19; Hale, 8; Hargrove, 24; Honeyford, 15; Oke, 26; Regala, 27.

If there are other bills that would assist in reducing emissions caused by fossil fuel energy, please alert any of the following who want to keep this list current throughout the legislative session.

Thank you.

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