

Olympia

2009 Legislative Session

Board of Commissioners Update
April 6, 2009

Discussion Today

- Status of legislative activity
- Bills of interest
- Questions

External Affairs Legislative Activity

- Beginning the 13th week of legislative session
- About 720 bills and resolutions still “alive”
- Staff monitoring about 90 bills
- Reached March 30 cut-off date
- Today is cut-off date for fiscal and transportation bills to pass committees in opposite chambers
- April 17 - Bills must pass opposite chambers
 - Except budget bills and bills with differences between the Houses
- Consent/dispute calendars

Bills of Interest - Whitewater

- Recreational Use Statute Amendment (limit on whitewater boating liability)
 - Will work this issue during legislative recess and try again in 2010

Bills of Interest – I-937 Amendments

- Governor proposed a compromise on SB 5840
- Compromise bill passed House Technology Committee
- Hearing in the General Government Appropriations Committee on April 1
 - Debate surrounded the costs it would impose on customers of Tacoma Power and Clark Public Utilities, who would not be protected by the “load growth” provision which applies to utilities with less than 2 million MWhs of annual retail sales
 - Clark, Tacoma were seeking up to 200,000 customer threshold instead
 - Did not proceed to a vote, but not subject to cutoff today because it was referred to by bill number in the budget
- Tax incentives in HB 1009 critical to keeping SB 5840 alive – but \$34 million price tag weighing it down
 - Executive session possibly today in Ways and Means

Bills of Interest – Climate Change

- SB 5735 approved by the House Ecology and Parks Committee on March 27
 - Allows Ecology to keep working within WCI
 - Requires agency to report recommendations on an “emissions reduction trajectory” by next year
 - Requires significant emission reductions from TransAlta
 - Does not contain an economic analysis requirement
- Bill passed House Ways & Means Committee Saturday, with a null and void clause

Tidbit of the Day

- Dave Arbaugh is to give a lobbying presentation to the Apple Blossom Court tomorrow afternoon!