



Olympia 2008 Legislative Session



Board of Commissioners Update
January 28, 2008

External Affairs Legislative Activity

- Monitoring over 140 bills of moderate interest (out of over 1800 bills introduced)
- Working with WPUDA and consultant Dave Arbaugh to identify, evaluate and track high priority legislation, i.e.:
 - Bills with significant potential to impact the District
 - Bills with likelihood of making progress in committee
- Participating in WPUDA meetings

Bills of interest

- Increasing PUD bid limits (HB 3135/ SB 6719)
- Pole attachments (HB 2533/ SB 6585)
- Renewable procurement (HB 2639/SB 6658)
- Commissioner compensation (HB 2606/ SB 6717)
- Climate change
 - Governor's bill on design of GHG market-based reduction program/green collar jobs (HB 2815/ SB 6516)
 - Addressing climate change through the GMA (HB 2797/ SB 6580)
- High-speed internet access, deployment and adoption initiative (HB 2559/ SB 6438)
- Water system acquisition & rehabilitation program (SB 6340/ HB 3185)
- Allocating water from the Columbia and Lower Snake rivers for biofuels irrigation and organic crop irrigation (HB 3081/ SB 6758)

Legislative Schedule – Cutoff dates

- Slate of bills to track should narrow down after February 8:
 - A bill must be heard in committee by this date (Feb. 12 for a fiscal bill) in order to move further through the process this year unless the legislature deems it necessary to implement the budget.
- Slate of bills should further narrow by February 19:
 - If a bill hasn't passed its house of origin (i.e. Senate or House) by then, it is too late for it to move further through the process this year unless the legislature deems it necessary to implement the budget.