

Olympia

2009 Legislative Session

Board of Commissioners Update
March 16, 2009

Discussion Today

- Status of legislative activity
- Bills of interest
- Second half of session strategy
- Questions

External Affairs Legislative Activity

- Beginning the 10th week of legislative session
- Reached March 12 cut-off deadline
- About 790 bills and resolutions still “alive”
- Staff monitoring about 100 bills
 - Bills necessary to implement the budget not subject to cut-off
 - Possible that some “dead” bills could be amended to moving legislative vehicles
 - Continued “vigilance” required for bill monitoring

Bills of Interest - Whitewater

- Recreational Use Statute Amendment (limit on whitewater boating liability)
 - Senator Hargrove decided to support District's amendment
 - Was pending on next "Order of Consideration" when Senate got bogged down on unrelated issue
 - Clock ran out (5 pm) before Senate consideration could occur (bill technically dead)
 - Staff considering other legislative vehicles for amendment

Bills of Interest – I-937

- Senator Marr's bill, SB 5840
 - Replaced with a “striking amendment” that removed small hydropower from eligible resources; reduced amount of qualifying excess conservation and biomass; adjusted RPS targets (20% by 2020, moved 4% target to 2014); added a feed-in tariff study
 - Further amended on the floor of the Senate
 - Existing hydro under 30 MW reinserted; adjustments to qualifying solar if components manufactured in WA
 - Interesting vote; mix of Republicans and Democrats supported or opposed for different reasons
 - Pending before Rep. McCoy's House Committee

Bills of Interest – Climate Change

- HB 1819 died
- SB 5735 passed but is no longer “cap and trade” legislation
 - 2011 recommendations to the legislature regarding merit of cap-and-trade system and complementary emission reduction measures
 - Expresses state policy to assure equitable economic benefits and opportunities for hydropower
 - Requires Ecology to recommend statewide and sector caps on emitters over 25,000 metric tons annually
 - Requires certain sectors like electricity be capped by 2012 (transportation still by 2015)
 - Requires Ecology to make recommendations on offset credits by December 1, 2010

Second Half Strategy

- I-937 amendments
- Climate change
- Whitewater
- Other bills
- Other outreach

Questions?
