

Olympia

2009 Legislative Session

Board of Commissioners Update
March 2, 2009

Discussion Today

- Status of legislative activity
- Bills of interest
- NHA activity on Capitol Hill
- Other activity
- Questions

External Affairs Legislative Activity

- Beginning eighth week of legislative session
- About 1600 bills and resolutions still pending
- Monitoring about 190 bills
- Met first “committee” cut-off dates
- Fiscal and transportation committee deadline today
- Anticipating March 12 cut-off date
 - Leadership prioritizing bills related to jobs and climate change
 - Legislation deemed necessary to implement the budget are not subject to this cut-off date

Bills of Interest

- Amendments to Initiative I-937 (RCW 19.285)
 - SB 5840 (Marr) District performing an analysis on this bill to determine whether to support the legislation that passed committee on Feb. 23
- Climate Bills
 - Substitute HB 1819 passed policy committee on Feb. 17 and second substitute bill passed General Government Appropriations Committee on Feb. 26 – pending in Rules Committee
 - Includes price cap on allowances for 2012 and 2012 of \$12
 - Includes a section on economic analysis
 - Includes no details on allowance allocation, but states that an auction cannot commence without approval by the legislature
 - Substitute SB 5735 passed committee on Feb. 25; pending before Ways and Means
 - Directs Ecology to design voluntary annual statewide emissions targets
 - More of a “study and recommend” approach
- Possible meeting between House/Senate chairs to determine next steps
- Governor has been in discussions with legislative leadership
- Governor reportedly reinvigorated after recent trip to Washington, D.C.
- Seems inevitable that any program will require more economic analysis

Bills of Interest

- Whitewater Boating Liability
 - Substitute SB 5422 - Meeting with Senator Hargrove and Senator Parlette last week. Efforts ongoing to work with trial lawyers to address their concerns
- Feed-in Tariff
 - Substitute bill HB 1086 - Passed by the House Technology, Energy and Communications Committee and was referred to the General Government Appropriations Committee. It is opposed by utilities.
- Stimulus money for energy efficiency
 - SB 5649 - Creates an energy efficiency assistance program at WSU to manage grants and technical assistance for EE services and improvements in households not eligible for LIHEAP
 - Appears to provide an alternative distribution methodology for an estimated \$60 million in potential federal stimulus money (currently, energy block grants usually go to CTED)

NHA Capitol Hill Activity

- Meeting with legislative staff to promote the role of hydropower in the climate debate and any federal renewable electricity standard
- Thanking legislators for including hydropower in the economic stimulus package
- Continued advocacy for hydropower incentives

Other Activity

- Rich Riazzi and Tracy Yount are meeting with legislators and agencies to discuss the provisions of the economic stimulus package
- New websites on economic stimulus at:
 - www.recovery.gov
 - www.recover.wa.gov

Questions?
