

# Olympia

## 2009 Legislative Session

Board of Commissioners Update  
March 23, 2009

# Discussion Today

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- Status of legislative activity
- Bills of interest
- Staff assignments
- Questions

# External Affairs Legislative Activity

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- Beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> week of legislative session
- About 790 bills and resolutions still “alive”
- Staff monitoring about 108 bills
- March 30 next cut-off date
  - House bills must pass Senate policy committees and vice versa (excluding fiscal and transportation bills – April 6)
- April 17 - Bills must pass opposite chambers

# Bills of Interest - Whitewater

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- Recreational Use Statute Amendment (limit on whitewater boating liability)
  - Senator Parlette following up with Senator Kline of the Judiciary Committee
  - Seeking bills that may be appropriate to amend with this legislation – 3 options
  - If unsuccessful, will work this issue during legislative recess and try again in 2010

# Bills of Interest – I-937 Amendments

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- Senator Marr's bill, SB 5840 is pending before Rep. McCoy's House Committee.
- Hearing in House on Wednesday, likely executive action
- Governor has proposed a compromise
  - Allows eligible renewables to be obtained WECC-wide starting 2012
  - Keeps 2012 goal at 3%
  - 2016 goal increases by 1% to 10%
  - 2020 goal increases by 1% to 16%
  - Changes the 20% by 2025 proposed requirement to a goal;
  - Restricts load growth protection to small utilities (under 2 million MWhrs annually)
  - Adds BPA hydro efficiencies to eligible resources
  - Includes black liquor and pre-1999 biomass facilities owned by qualifying utilities
  - Appears to be no hydro/wind firming study
  - No under 30 MW existing hydro
  - Appears to be no feed-in tariff study

# Bills of Interest – Climate Change

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- SB 5735 scheduled for executive action in the House Committee on Ecology & Parks on March 27
- Governor testified before the Committee March 17
- Ecology is providing House Committee with amendment ideas
- Conventional wisdom says “less doubt” that a climate bill will survive this session

# Staff Assignments

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- We're asking technical staff to review of surviving bills
  - Enables us to comment on bills of concern
  - Prepares us for possible compliance obligations

# Questions?

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