

2022 State Legislative Session Update

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Why we're here today

- Update on the 2022 session
- Update on bills of interest

For Board information only – no decisions

Overview

- Day 57 of the 60-day session
- Feb. 3 - Committee of origin policy bill cutoff
- Feb. 7 - Policy bills out of fiscal committees
- Feb. 15 - Bills out of House of origin
- Feb.22 – Last Board Update
- Feb. 24 – Bills out of committee
- Feb. 28 – Bills out of opposite committee, fiscal, and Ways and Means
- March 4 – Opposite house cutoff deadline (budget bills are not subject to the cutoff)
- Anticipate ending on time - March 10

Budget Issues

Item	Position	Note
Utility Arrearages	Support	Utilities documented over \$280M of impacts due to the pandemic. \$100M was included in the Governor's December budget proposal. The Governor now recommends \$50M to be made available to community action agencies.
Snake River Dam Study Funding	Oppose	\$350k in both budgets (not subject to negotiations)
Broadband Funding	Support	Both versions of the capital budget provide broadband funding.
Transportation Revenue Diversion from Public Works Assistance Account	WPUDA Opposed	Initial Transportation Budget funding sourced from an Export Fuel Tax. Opposition led to money swept from the Public Works Assistance Account (\$1.6B). This has now evolved to consideration in the Senate of partial funding from the Model Toxics Control Account. Outcome is unclear.

Top 2022 Legislative Priorities

Item	Position	Status
Wildfire Liability – SB 5803	Support	Technically dead due to missing cutoff in House Rules. It was a planning bill we testified in support of.
Waterpower License Fees – HB 1931	Support	Defers the sunset to 2029. Next stop is Governor Inslee’s desk for signing.
Net Ecological Gain – HB 1117	Other	Technically dead. Study language may show up in the final budget deal. Concept of adding salmon recovery goals in the Growth Management Act and the Department of Fish and Wildlife creating criteria for “net ecological gain”.

Energy Issues

Item	Position	Status/Interest
Hydrogen HB 1792/SB 5910	Neutral	Creates definition of Green Hydrogen creating alignment with CETA.

Telecom Issues

Item	Position	Status
Public Works Board grants and loans – HB 1673	Support	Funds telecom deployment

Human Resources & Safety

Item	Position	Status/Intent
Paid family and medical leave operational changes, legislative reporting – SB 5649	Support	Requires reporting and measures to improve financial elements of program. Also includes a null and void clause triggered if not funded in the budget.

Other Issues

Item	Position	Status
None		

Questions?