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WACD Legislative Update

January 24, 2022

This is WACD's first week of subscription-only legislative updates. These weekly updates contains timely information about legislative activities that may affect conservation districts in Washington State.

1. WACD Opposition to HB 1910

WACD is now officially on the record as opposing [HB 1910](#) and will be testifying to that effect in the House State Government and Tribal Relations Committee hearing on Thursday, January 27th.

This bill would mandate conservation districts elections operate under the general election ballot, with all five supervisor positions to be held under Title 29A and costs to be borne by the district. We would greatly prefer to see [HB 1652](#) adopted, which reflects the work of WACD and WSCC's Joint Committee on Elections to make critical election improvements while maintaining local control.

You can read more reasons as to why WACD is opposed to this bill on the Hub with [our talking points](#)

2. General Legislative Review

As part of her services, WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady writes a summary of the previous week's major legislative activity. This week's coverage includes:

- Major MLK Day Public Testimony
- Early 2022 Legislative Electioneering
- Bipartisan Action to delay the Washington Cares Act

You can read [her full review](#) on the WACD Hub website.

3. Summary of WACD's Legislative Positions

Recognizing that WACD's Watchlist may not be the best way for everyone to absorb information, WACD staff posted more detailed positions this afternoon. These summaries of our positions cover the bills that WACD currently supports or opposes.

[These summaries](#) will be revised as WACD receives new information or substantial changes are made to perspective legislation.

4. WACD's Legislative Activity

Last week saw the first major action on some of the bills WACD is currently tracking and our reactions.

- [You can read Director Salzer's testimony on HB 1838](#) to the House Rural Development, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee last week on the lack of support for voluntary conservation efforts regarding salmon habitat.
- You can track new legislation via [WACD's Watchlist](#), updated on a near-daily basis. The most recent inclusion to the list was WACD's opposition to [SB 5857](#), which would cut more than a million dollars from the Conservation Commission's budget.
- Last week saw the adoption by the WACD Board of Director's of the Association's [2022 Legislative Priorities](#) based on resolutions adopted by the membership.

Ryan's Random Bill of the Week

In the midst of many serious proposals, with bills that could impact every aspects of life for all Washingtonians, there is the occasional proposal which forces you to stop and chuckle. As a reward for reading to the end of this week's newsletter, may I present [Senate Bill 5615](#) to make pickleball the official state sport of Washington.

For those unaware of this sport played on modified tennis courts with rackets and wiffleballs, it was invented on Bainbridge Island in the 1960s by (among others) future Lieutenant Governor and Congressman Joel Pritchard. It is estimated that in the last sixty years, it has grown to include four million players nationwide with 67 member-countries in the International Federation of Pickleball. And ten state senators believe it should be enshrined alongside other "officials" like the state gem (petrified wood) and the state vegetable (Walla Walla sweet onions).



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