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WACD Legislative Update

January 31, 2022

This is WACD's second 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's Testimony on HB 1910

WACD testified in opposition to HB 1910 last Thursday, alongside the Conservation Commission and ten conservation districts, sharing our concerns about a bill mandating CD elections be held under the general election statute without a way to pay for the cost. Even more CDs were signed in online or submitted comments to the Representatives on that committee. [You can view our testimony and the full public hearing here.](#)

The State Government and Tribal Relations Committee will vote on Wednesday, February 2nd, on potentially both CD election bills - HB 1910 and HB 1652. WACD supports HB 1652 as reflecting the unanimous adoption by the membership supporting the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Elections).

2. Update on WACD's Legislative Watchlist

Thursday, February 3rd is the first cut-off, where policy bills must be voted out of committee to continue proceeding through the legislative process. Because committee schedules are public and released in advance (though always subject to change), WACD gathered all the bills on our [watch list](#) and put them in one place.

[This information is available on the WACD Hub](#) and we will make a final list of what is still alive after Thursday's cut-off.

3. 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:

- Proposal to increase legislative oversight of gubernatorial powers
- 2nd wave of legislative retirements
- Focus on increasing apprenticeship programs

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

4. WACD Legislative Strategy & the Remainder of Session

WACD's legislative strategy will shift once policy cut-off hits on Thursday. Before, staff focused on particular legislators and their constituent districts. That will change as policy proposals move out of their original committee and in front of more and more Representatives and Senators.

You can read more about WACD's strategy and the forthcoming shift to budget conversations [on the WACD Hub](#).

5. The Door Closes on HB 1838

In a press conference last Thursday, Governor Inslee admitted HB 1838 "[probably won't pass](#)". Other legislators over the weekend went further to downplay the bill's likelihood of becoming law and acknowledge the proposal is likely done for the 2022 legislative session.

As the door closes on the Governor's riparian mandate bill, WACD will seek to shift the proposed funds from the original bill into better supporting voluntary, incentive-based programs like the Voluntary Stewardship Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to fund the existing need.

Ryan's Random Bill of the Week

After last week's unveiling of the "Pickleball Bill", I thought I could continue the trend of highlight some of the less-weighty proposals in the Washington State Legislature. This may become a regular feature of these weekly emails, depending on how these are received by WACD's membership. This week I am sharing with you fine readers [Senate Bill 5512](#) to designate "the Evergreen State" as the official nickname of the state of Washington.

The official bill report reads like a short history lesson. In 1889 and shortly after Washington became the 42nd state in the Union, a Seattle realtor and newspaper writer C.T. Conovor spent \$30,000 to print and distribute 50,000 copies of a booklet

promoting "Washington, the Evergreen State and Seattle, Its Metropolis" across the country. The nickname quickly stuck and was used in the state's 1893 World's Fair exhibit in Chicago, being a part of our state's symbology ever since. This is Senator Honeyford of Yakima's third attempt to codify this nickname into law.



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