



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Legislative Update

January 16, 2023

This is WACD's first week of subscription-only legislative updates for 2023. These weekly updates contains timely information about legislative activities affecting conservation districts in Washington State.

1. WACD Testimony This Session

Executive Director Tom Salzer testified four times in the first week of session, all addressing the Governor's proposed FY23-25 [Operating Budget proposal](#) and [Capital Budget proposal](#) in both the House and the Senate. He also [submitted written testimony](#) on HB 1166 (Developing a water quality trading program).

He is also preparing remarks for Wednesday's public hearing in the House Ag and Natural Resources Committee on HB 1215 (Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas). Here is a summary of his forthcoming testimony:

WACD is testifying as OTHER on HB 1215. While we certainly support the intent of this legislation, we are concerned about two things: applying site potential tree height in situations where local soils and hydrology won't support woody riparian plant communities, and the interpretation and implementation of this legislation if adopted.

2. Legislative Overview

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

- Composition of the 2023 Legislature

- Majority Legislative Priorities
- Legislative Deadlines for this year

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

3. WACD Legislative Watch List

The Watch List summarizes the conservation district-related bills WACD is monitoring and WACD's position on each. It is updated on a daily basis, as proposals are changed as they move through the legislative process and from feedback from our member-districts. [You can view the whole list on the WACD Hub website.](#)

4. How to Remotely Testify

Though the Legislature has returned to Olympia, online committee testimony is still available for both the House and the Senate. You can register to testify remotely on a bill by using [this link](#) and following the online instructions. Registration closes one hour before the scheduled start of the meeting for which you're seeking to speak. You also have the option to submit written testimony.

5. WACD Legislative Days

Don't forget WACD Legislative Days is on February 8th, both in Olympia and online. For those looking to come to Olympia, we're finalizing a contract with a hotel at per diem rates and offer a breakfast and legislative briefing. We hope to release that information before the end of this week.

Washington State Conservation Commission Session News

If you haven't already, please consider subscribing to the Session News the Commission is now releasing at the start of each week.

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