



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## WACD Legislative Update

January 23, 2023

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

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### 1. Testimony on HB 1215

Last Wednesday, the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee held a public hearing on [HB 1215](#) (Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas). Four individuals from our community testified on the bill, and we wanted you to be

[at Night's Testimony](#)

- [WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer's Testimony](#)
- [WSCC Executive Director Chris Pettit's Testimony](#)
- [North Yakima CD District Manager Mike Tobin's Testimony](#)

### 2. WACD Legislative Day

For those planning to come to Olympia on February 8th for Legislative Day, WACD has secured hotel accommodations at government per diem rates and a breakfast banquet Hall at the Ramada Inn in Lacey. We're waiting for a group discount code or custom web link that we can share with you.

### 3. 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:

- "Wealth Tax" legislation
- Firearm Proposals
- Changes to the State's Recycling system

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

## 4. CD Elections

Though a bill containing the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Elections is not yet in front of the legislature, we are still working to achieve the outcome laid out in Resolution 2021-17. After meeting with the Chair of the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations in the first week of session on this topic, we are now aware of at least one proposal being written that contains neither the JCE's recommendations nor a repeat of last year's HB 1910 that would have placed all CDs on the general election ballot.

We expect to see this proposal introduced sometime in the next two weeks, we will make sure the entire membership is aware of the bill when we know more.

## 5. Hearings This Week

[WACD's Legislative Watch List](#) includes which of the bills we're following are scheduled for a public hearing. This week, three bills are worth highlighting:

- [HB 1381](#) (Concerning salmon-safe communities) is being heard in the House Environment and Energy Committee at 1:30 PM on Monday, January 23rd.
- [SB 5353](#) (Concerning the voluntary stewardship program) is being heard in the Senate Ag & Water Committee at 1:30 PM on Thursday, January 26th.
- [SB 5390](#) (Establishing a programmatic safe harbor agreement on forestlands) is also being heard in the Senate Ag & Water Committee at 1:30 PM on Thursday, January 26th.

You can sign up to testify on these bills, or any other, at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/> for either remote or in-person testimony.

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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