

[View this in your browser.](#)



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## WACD Week 3 Legislative Update

January 28, 2025

*Apologies for anyone who missed last week's unsent newsletter. Ryan has since returned from his sick leave.*

If there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to [Tom](#), [Heather](#), or [Ryan](#)

---

### 1. Rates and Charges Bill Introduced

The rates and charges proposal worked on by WACD and CDs for the last eighteen months is now [House Bill 1488](#) and [Senate Bill 5510](#). This bill, as proposed by the WACD resolutions adopted by the membership in 2023 and 2024, would allow counties to set the per parcel amount based on community need. If you have a legislator on the House Finance Committee or the Senate Ways & Means Committee, please write to them with your district's support for the bill.

### 2. WACD Bill Tracker for 2025

Our bill tracker for 2025 now has 80 bills on the list, with proposals ranging from turfgrass seed contracts (SB 5074) to the creation of new "environmental crimes" (SB 5360). Take a look at what we're tracking at (<https://wadistricts.us/wacd-watch-list/>)

### 3. Opportunities to Comment

One regular feature in our weekly legislative newsletter will be opportunities for our membership to engage with legislators each week of the legislative session. Online committee testimony is available for both the House and the Senate, you do not need

to come to Olympia to speak at a Public Hearing for a bill. 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.

This week, here are a couple bills from our bill tracker scheduled for public hearings:

- [HB 1153](#) (Concerning urban forest management ordinances.) - Scheduled for a public hearing on Wednesday, Jan 29th at 8 AM in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
- [HB 1309](#) (Addressing the impacts of burrowing shrimp on bottom culture shellfish farming through integrated pest management research.) Scheduled for a public hearing on Friday, Jan 31st at 10:30 in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

## 4. WACD Legislative Day Details for February 5

### Schedule

- **7:00 AM to 8:00 AM** – Breakfast (at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Lacey)
- **7:15 AM** – Welcome from WACD & Overview of WACD priorities
- **7:25 AM** – Welcome from the Commission
- **7:40 AM** – Briefing from WACD Lobbyist and Q&A
- **8:00 AM** – Attendees depart for meetings with Legislators
- **8:30 AM to 5:00 PM** – Attendees have access to the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building ~ Come take a break between meetings!
- **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** – Invite your legislators and their legislative aids to swing by the Columbia Room to pick up a Common-Sense Conservation Cupcake
- **Noon** – WACD will be providing boxed lunches to participants. If you plan on joining us for lunch please **RSVP** to [Ryan](#) by **January 29th**.

### Virtual Tours/Tabling

Last but not least if your CD would like to set up a display in the Columbia Room to showcase your CD to legislators stopping by to pick up a cupcake please email [Heather](#) to reserve your spot!

### Hotel Information

We have a hotel at the same venue as 2024: the **Holiday Inn Express & Suites** in Lacey. If you are planning to come to Olympia, there will be a breakfast at the hotel the morning of the 5th before everyone descends on the Capitol.

For a *per diem* rate hotel room at the Holiday Inn, here are some directions:

1. Click on [this link](#) for the hotel webpage.
2. Select the date you wish to stay (our per diem rate is for February 4).
3. Click "View Prices".
4. This should provide you with the option of 1 King bed or 2 Queen bed room at \$151 per night (excluding taxes), select your room type.
5. Complete Booking.

### Outreach Materials

WACD will have copies of our CD's 101 and CTA outreach one-pagers available for districts to take to their meetings or you can access and print your own [here](#).



Those folks joining us on the hill on February 5th will receive a **45 Strong** lapel pin!  
This beautiful graphic was created by our great friends at [KR Creative Strategies!](#)

## 5. General Legislative Update

WACD's Lobbyist Brynn Brady writes a weekly update for those interested in the general happenings of Olympia. [This week](#) she covers the legislature's focus on waste management, rental housing bills, more newly appointed legislators, and a surprise appointment to the executive agency Results Washington. You can view her post on the WACD Hub.

---



---

"Drill Drift", courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#), as a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.

Taken by Dean White, Lincoln County Conservation District



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)

1219 11th Ave SE Suite 103

Olympia, WA 98501