



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 5 Legislative Update

February 11, 2025

Welcome to the fifth week of the legislative session. Action will start to heat up, as next Friday, February 21 is the deadline for all bills to be voted out of their respective policy committee or be left behind. Between this week and next, expect packed committee hearings.

As always, 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 Updates

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](#). These bills, 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. After committee hearings last week, both bills are scheduled for a vote out of committee this week - Feb 11 for HB 1488 and Feb 13 for SB 5510.

Support Needed

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. A letter template can be found [here](#).

2. One Pagers for Leg Day

For those who plan to send follow up information to their legislators after Leg Day, or plan to contact your legislators again later in the session via email, here are the electronic versions of the hand outs from last week for your potential use.

Available WACD Materials

- [WACD 2025 Legislative Priorities](#)
- [WACD - CDs 101 One-pager Audience A \(89 downloads \)](#)
- [WACD - CDs 101 One-pager Audience B \(64 downloads \)](#)
- [WACD - CDs 101 Talking Points \(with Spanish translation\) \(50 downloads \)](#)
- [WACD - CTA One-Pager \(103 downloads \)](#)

Available Commission Materials

- [2025 SCC Decision Packages](#)
- [2025 Decision Packages summary page](#)
- [RGP Handout](#)
- [WSRRI Handout](#)
- [CWR Handout](#)

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:

- [SB 5567](#) (Expanding secondary training for careers in natural resources and conservation.) to be heard in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee on Wednesday, February 12 at 10:30 AM

- [HB 1912](#) (Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act.) to be heard in the House Committee on Environment & Energy on Thursday, February 13 at 8 AM.
- [HB 1825](#) (Concerning grizzly bear management.) to be heard in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources on Friday, February 14 at 10:30 AM.

4. Conservation District Testimony

Thank you to the people who testified or signed in with their support to the committee hearings for [SB 5510](#) and [HB 1488](#) this week. If you want to see our people describe how important this bill is to their district, click below.

Senate Bill 5510

Tuesday, February 4

[Senate Ways & Means Committee Hearing Testimony Link](#)

House Bill 1488

Thursday, February 6

[House Finance Committee Hearing Testimony Link](#)

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 revenue proposals, ballot initiatives, healthcare mergers and acquisitions, and right to repair legislation.

The view last Wednesday while conservation districts visited
their state elected officials in Olympia.



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