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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 3 Legislative Update

January 20, 2026

Welcome to the second week of the legislative session. Bills are flying everywhere, but it will be a few weeks yet until we see what spaghetti will actually stick to the walls.

Between the [WACD bill tracker](#), these newsletters, and our new [Legislative Lunches](#) (on Tuesday this week because of MLK Day), we hope to keep our membership informed of the latest happenings in Olympia.

We hope these emails will be of use and benefit to our members. If there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, or want to ask about anything you see in one of these newsletters, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to [Tom](#), [Heather](#), or [Ryan](#).

1. CD Elections Bill

If this is the first email you've read in the last week, [HB 2499](#) is the CD elections bill WACD was expecting to see this session. The biggest aspects of the bill:

- It removes the landowner/land operator requirement from all elected and appointed supervisors.
- It allows districts the option to conduct their elections under Title 29A after a majority vote of the board.
- It would extend all supervisor terms to four years.
- All supervisors must complete the F-1 (personal financial affairs statement).

Right now, the bill is **not** scheduled for a public hearing. Our lobbyist is currently working to determine if that is likely to happen before the legislative cut-off on February

4th. If that happens, WACD will testify in opposition based on the passage of WACD Resolution 2025-13.

2. HB 2154 Testimony

WACD, and several districts, testified in opposition to HB 2154 last Wednesday in the House Local Government Committee. You can hear the legislator's reasons for [introducing the bill](#) and [our testimonies](#) with why CDs should be allowed to continue their work, and to correct a number of assumptions about CDs.

We are unsure if this bill will proceed any further. It is not currently scheduled for a vote, and a vote must be done by February 4th if the bill is to move forward.

3. Upcoming Committee Meetings

One common feature in these newsletters will be to identifying opportunities in the committee process we think our membership might to participate or observe on TVW. Here's a few items from the second week of the legislative session:

- [HB 2316](#) (Concerning land use development when vegetation associated with shrubsteppe is present in the urban growth areas.) will be heard in the House Committee on Local Government at 10:30 AM on January 20th.
- [SB 6054](#) (Concerning unreasonable restrictions on wildfire home hardening practices in common interest communities.) will be heard in the Senate Committee on Housing at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, January 21st.
- [SB 6079](#) (Creating a wildfire mitigation grant program.) will be heard in the Senate Committee on Business, Trade, and Economic Development at 8 AM on Thursday, January 22nd.

4. Revisiting Forest and Fish

Last Friday, the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee spent two hours revisiting the creation of the Forests and Fish laws from the late 90s with several of the key individuals from that time period. They also sought to see if the lessons from that time period could be applied to the recent actions by DNR's Forest Practices Board. If you are interested in learning more about that landmark legislation, I encourage you to watch the [committee's work session](#).

5. Lobbyist Update

One service our lobbyist Brynn Brady provides is coverage of the legislative highlights and trends from the week. From the first week of the legislative session Brynn covers how the special elections from 2025 will impact the 2026 legislative composition and some of the many legislative proposals to raise more funds to cover the deficit in the FY25-27 biennium budget. Check out her write-up on the [WACD HUB](#).



"Snake River Reflections of Winter", courtesy of [WSCC's Flicker account](#), as a treat for those who reached the bottom of the page.

Taken by Lacy Ausman-Ditto, Asotin County Conservation District



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