
HOUSE BILL 2181

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Jacobsen, Belcher, Sheldon, Hargrove, Riley, Jones, Basich, R. King and Rasmussen.

Read first time March 8, 1991. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a Washington timberlands foundation; adding a
2 new chapter to Title 43 RCW; creating a new section; and making an
3 appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that
6 the social and economic implications of recent declines from expected
7 timber harvest schedules resulting from the preservation of northern
8 spotted owl habitat constitutes an immediate threat to timber
9 communities.

10 The legislature acknowledges that the logging community is
11 distinguished by an unusual commitment to individualism, hard work,
12 inventiveness, and entrepreneurial spirit.

13 A social contract has been broken, and with it the fabric of a
14 unique community. Social and cultural disruptions are caused by the
15 severe stress of job loss, a loss of trust in assured government timber

1 supplies, and a feeling of disenfranchisement while the political
2 conflict over fundamental social values continues.

3 The well-being of the citizens who lives in timber-dependent
4 regions is in acute peril, jeopardizing not only the quality of life
5 for those residing in the timberlands, but also the continued viability
6 of the timberlands themselves, in which human beings play an important
7 and integral role as managers and beneficiaries.

8 New ways must be found to ensure the survival of the timberlands'
9 way of life while, at the same time, building the foundation for a new
10 economy and a lifestyle that is both sustainable and personally
11 rewarding. The current strains on the timberlands' economies and the
12 harsh stresses being experienced by the timberlands' people, make it
13 necessary for the legislature to take immediate, comprehensive, and
14 long-lasting action.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This chapter shall be known as the
16 timberlands revitalization act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Unless the context clearly requires
18 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
19 chapter.

20 (1) "Timberlands" means a region of the state, as determined by
21 economic census data, where timber harvesting is the dominant economic
22 activity.

23 (2) "Industry council" means a local, nongovernmental, and
24 voluntary association of business and labor entities whose purpose is
25 to organize and sustain working relationships that are mutually
26 beneficial and beneficial to the economic health of the domestic
27 economy.

1 (3) "Community congress" means a local, nongovernmental, and
2 voluntary association of community interests established prior to or
3 pursuant to this chapter and intended to stimulate local initiative in
4 the attainment of local goals.

5 (4) "Network economy" means an economy of indigenous local
6 enterprises who contribute to each others' success as mutual buyers and
7 sellers of essential products and services.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** There is hereby established the
9 timberlands foundation. The foundation is responsible for achieving
10 and sustaining a high quality of life in Washington's timberlands
11 region. The foundation shall:

12 (1) Assist in transforming the local economy from one dependent on
13 primary wood products to a network economy based on a mix of primary
14 wood products, value-added wood products, and secondary manufacturing
15 of wood products; the design and manufacture of other products,
16 including so-called high technology industry; ecological husbandry;
17 aquaculture; crafts; local wholesale and retail activity; education and
18 cultural activity; tourism; trade; and other indigenous economic
19 activity;

20 (2) Encourage the substitution, wherever possible, of sustainable
21 agriculture and other economic activities, including silviculture, for
22 harvest activities that remove vital resources from the domestic
23 ecology and economy; and the preservation and replenishment of
24 ecological features essential to the character of the region and its
25 enjoyment by residents and visitors alike;

26 (3) Invest in enterprises in the region that are complementary to
27 the goals of the foundation, especially enterprises that have a strong
28 local component and which contribute to a local economy that is self-
29 directed and independent from influences outside the region;

1 (4) Stimulate a vital regional cultural life, including strong,
2 responsive educational institutions, that builds a strong sense of
3 personal identity and community among residents of the timberlands and
4 creates opportunities for timberlands residents to express this sense
5 of identity and community; and

6 (5) Act as an advocate for the interests of the people of the
7 region in councils of the state and before the federal government.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The foundation shall be governed by a
9 board of directors.

10 (1) The board of directors shall be comprised of seven persons who
11 shall serve for four years.

12 (a) The initial board shall be appointed by the governor and the
13 legislature. Three members shall be appointed by the governor, two by
14 the speaker of the house of representatives, and two by the president
15 pro tem of the senate. Each of the persons appointed to the board
16 shall be a resident of the timberlands and have experience in economic,
17 civic, or cultural affairs relevant to the needs of the timberlands.
18 In making these appointments, the governor, speaker of the house of
19 representatives, and president pro tem of the senate shall seek to
20 appoint persons who represent the diverse complexion, by age, race,
21 sex, occupation, and interests, of the population of the timberlands;
22 and

23 (b) Subsequent boards shall be directly elected by the people of
24 the timberlands. The procedures for this election shall be set forth
25 by the legislature.

26 (2) The board of directors shall be compensated as directed by the
27 legislature.

28 (3) The board of directors shall appoint an executive director, who
29 shall serve at the pleasure of the board, to manage the activities of

1 the foundation. The executive director may hire additional staff to
2 assist in the conduct of his or her management, subject to the approval
3 of the board of directors.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The foundation shall:

5 (1) Develop, in consultation with local and state agencies, crisis
6 relief programs, including programs for mortgage and debt assistance,
7 educational opportunity, and family centers, to mitigate the immediate
8 stresses experienced by families and individuals in the timberlands who
9 have been victimized by catastrophic changes in the local economy.

10 (a) These programs shall be coordinated with existing programs
11 intended to provide relief to the people of the timberlands; and

12 (b) To the greatest extent possible, the foundation shall transfer
13 responsibility for these programs to the residents of the timberlands.

14 (2) Investigate and promote indigenous, autonomous economic
15 activity based on value-added industry and local enterprises that
16 create diversity economic development.

17 (a) The foundation shall conduct studies of the timberlands local
18 economies to determine:

19 (i) Where industry is nonindigenous, nonsustainable, or
20 contributory to economic leakages from the region; and how this
21 industry might be transformed into or replaced by industry, including
22 silviculture, that is indigenous, sustainable, and contributory to
23 continuous economic development;

24 (ii) How a network-based economy emphasizing linkages among
25 indigenous enterprises can be developed and sustained; and

26 (iii) Those educational and other resources supplied by the state
27 and local agencies that are required to provide a hospitable
28 environment for a healthy local economy and civic life.

1 (b) The foundation is empowered to invest in local enterprises
2 whose successes will contribute to the attainment of the goals set
3 forth for the foundation in this chapter by making investment grants to
4 these enterprises. These investment grants shall be low or no-interest
5 loans, as determined by the legislature.

6 (i) These investment grants shall be labor-enhancing or shall
7 create new jobs. In no case shall these investment grants be used to
8 enable industrial processes that result in a replacement of labor
9 without the creation of accompanying jobs of an equal or higher quality
10 than those that would be replaced.

11 (ii) Such investments shall be targeted to produce a diverse
12 economy based on a mix of primary wood products, value-added wood
13 products, and secondary manufacturing of wood products; the design and
14 manufacture of other products, including so-called high technology
15 industry; ecological husbandry; aquaculture; crafts; local wholesale
16 and retail activity; education and cultural activity; tourism; trade;
17 and other indigenous economic activity. Whenever appropriate, the
18 foundation shall consult with the recipients of investment grants to
19 develop overseas markets for the products or services that they
20 produce.

21 (iii) These investments shall occur only in response to formal
22 application for funding submitted to the foundation, according to a
23 process established by the foundation, and subject to the scrutiny of
24 business, labor, and environmental representatives, and others
25 determined by the legislature to hold a stake in the successful outcome
26 of these investments.

27 (iv) The foundation shall establish a network of agents to assist
28 in identifying opportunities for, and promoting, network economies and
29 other economic activity that enables the foundation to achieve the
30 goals set forth in this chapter. These agents shall promote the

1 creation of local industry councils capable of coordinating local
2 economic activity and building favorable relationships among
3 enterprises.

4 (3) Enhance the educational, cultural, and civic life of the
5 region. To this end the foundation shall:

6 (a) Work with the University of Washington, Washington State
7 University, Western Washington University, The Evergreen State College,
8 and other educational institutions in the region to improve educational
9 opportunities in the timberlands;

10 (b) Study and work for the establishment of a four-year technical
11 institution of higher education in the southern timberlands, for the
12 purpose of training and retraining residents in the region's new
13 occupations. This institution and Western Washington University shall
14 endeavor to train local residents in professions of immediate relevance
15 to the timberlands, including but not limited to silviculture and
16 forestry, marine studies, business administration, tourism, medicine
17 and nursing, and teaching;

18 (c) Award fellowships and grants for graduate and postgraduate work
19 in degrees and research projects relating, but not limited, to timber
20 issues;

21 (d) Make grants for local educational, cultural, and recreational
22 activities, including artistic expressions, that contribute to a sense
23 of personal identity and community in the timberlands. Team efforts
24 are favored over individual efforts in the conduct of these activities;

25 (e) Encourage and support the creation and activation of community
26 congresses in communities throughout the timberlands. A community
27 congress shall be the nexus where local governments, school districts,
28 business, labor, and volunteer groups can collaborate in the solution
29 of local problems and the accomplishment of local goals; and

1 (f) Establish an extension service for promoting educational,
2 cultural, and civic opportunities within the structures and
3 institutions set forth by this chapter.

4 (4) Study and promote new methods of revitalizing life in the
5 timberlands. These methods shall include but not be limited to:

6 (a) Stimulating conditions favorable to the investment of capital
7 in the region;

8 (b) Determining the comparative advantages of the region vis-a-vis
9 other regions in the global economy and means for their exploitation;
10 and

11 (c) Examining and promoting the use of new technologies, including
12 but not limited to telecommunications and information technology, new
13 silviculture and forest management technology, value-added and
14 secondary manufacturing technology, transportation technology, and
15 aquaculture technology, that can contribute to a vibrant and
16 sustainable local economy.

17 (5) The foundation shall annually report to the legislature and the
18 governor on its activities and make recommendations for legislation
19 essential to the foundation meeting the goals set forth in this
20 chapter.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of dollars, or as
22 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
23 ending June 30, 1993, from the budget stabilization account under RCW
24 43.88.525 to the board of directors of the timberlands foundation, for
25 the purposes of this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act shall
27 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.