

VETO MESSAGE ON HB 1541-S

March 27, 1998

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,

The House of Representatives of the State of Washington
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Substitute House Bill No. 1541 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to protecting sport shooting ranges;"

The continued operation of shooting ranges in the state of Washington is important to all residents. Shooting ranges help teach and promote proper gun safety and often serve as practice facilities for law enforcement officers. Local authorities should recognize existing shooting ranges within their jurisdictions and promote responsible zoning and land use decisions that avoid establishing conflicting land uses.

This bill, however, would go far beyond addressing conflicting land uses. It would create a standard for compliance by shooting ranges that assumes that current noise and liability standards will always be adequate. In essence, it would create a permanent preemption of local land use decisions and ordinances. I believe that is unrealistic and unwarranted. As community conditions change, municipalities and their residents should have a right to adjust their land use decisions.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Substitute House Bill No. 1541 in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Locke
Governor