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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1229**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Buck, Anderson, DeBolt, Hatfield, Haigh, Doumit, Schoesler, Eickmeyer and Kessler)

Read first time 02/16/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to carbon sequestration; creating new sections; and  
2 making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that some private  
5 sector companies that generate carbon dioxide emissions or manufacture  
6 products that emit carbon dioxide, have begun purchasing carbon credits  
7 from landowners and other companies that have invested in energy  
8 efficiency retrofits. The companies that are purchasing these credits  
9 recognize that the development of a market or trading program for these  
10 credits would be beneficial. Forests are one of the most effective  
11 long-term resources able to absorb carbon dioxide. These forests are  
12 known to provide "carbon storage" or "carbon sinks." Because  
13 Washington contains some of the most productive forests worldwide,  
14 nonindustrial private forest landowners could greatly benefit from the  
15 establishment of a formally recognized carbon storage trading program.  
16 Marketing forest land for carbon storage could provide additional  
17 revenue to nonindustrial forest landowners and this could act as an  
18 incentive to maintain the land base in long-term forest production.  
19 Therefore, it is essential that the state develop a carbon

1 sequestration program to allow the market-based trading of carbon  
2 emissions within and across national and international jurisdictions.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A committee to develop a Washington state  
4 carbon sequestration implementation and certification plan is created.  
5 Staff support for the committee shall be provided by the office of  
6 program research in the house of representatives and by senate  
7 committee services.

8 (1) The committee shall consist of:

9 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,  
10 selected by the president of the senate;

11 (b) One representative from each of the two largest caucuses of the  
12 house of representatives, selected by the co-speakers of the house of  
13 representatives; and

14 (c) The following members to be jointly appointed by the co-  
15 speakers of the house of representatives and the president of the  
16 senate:

17 (i) One person from the college of forest resources of the  
18 University of Washington;

19 (ii) One person representing the timber industry;

20 (iii) One person representing local government;

21 (iv) One person representing environmental interests;

22 (v) One person representing tribal interests;

23 (vi) One person representing the department of natural resources;

24 (vii) One person representing farm forestry;

25 (viii) One person representing agriculture;

26 (ix) One person from the Washington State University college of  
27 agriculture;

28 (x) One person representing the department of ecology;

29 (xi) One person representing the department of community, trade,  
30 and economic development; and

31 (xii) One person representing a carbon-emitting industry.

32 (2) The committee shall prepare a report to the legislature by  
33 December 15, 1999, that includes:

34 (a) A report on carbon sequestration activities that could earn  
35 credits and receive payment for mitigation of carbon released to the  
36 atmosphere, and shall include research on market opportunities in the  
37 state of Washington;

38 (b) Recommendations for a system to register trades;

1 (c) An estimate of the current carbon storage capacity in the  
2 state; and

3 (d) Procedures to allow for the measurement, verification, and  
4 tracking of proposed carbon sequestration projects.

5 (3) The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2001, from  
7 the general fund to the house of representatives for the purpose of  
8 preparing the report on the Washington state carbon sequestration  
9 implementation and certification plan.

10 (4) The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
11 necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2001, from  
12 the general fund to the senate for the purpose of preparing the report  
13 on the Washington state carbon sequestration implementation and  
14 certification plan.

15 (5) The committee expires on December 31, 1999.

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