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SENATE BILL 5005

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Oke, Kline, Parlette, Fraser and Shin

Read first time 01/10/2005.                      Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1            AN ACT Relating to nature-based tourism; amending RCW 67.28.080;  
2 and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that nature-based  
5 tourism is the fastest growing outdoor activity and the fastest growing  
6 segment of the tourism industry. Tourism activities relating to  
7 watchable wildlife contribute more than one billion dollars to the  
8 state's economy per year, and it is primarily the rural areas of the  
9 state in which these activities occur.

10           The legislature further finds that there is general agreement among  
11 the hospitality industry, tourism interests, local governments, and  
12 watchable wildlife organizations that owners of working farms,  
13 woodlands, and rural open space lands provide a significant portion of  
14 the key areas for the wildlife which in turn attract the nature-based  
15 tourists. While tourism promotion interests seek to provide incentives  
16 to these landowners to maintain these key areas in a manner that  
17 benefits wildlife, and to assist them in managing the tourists that  
18 seek to appreciate this wildlife, there is a need to ensure flexibility  
19 in existing tourism promotion programs to provide this assistance.

1           Therefore it is the purpose of this act to clarify that the  
2 existing program for distribution of lodging tax revenues to promote  
3 tourism and to acquire, develop, and operate tourist facilities may  
4 include assistance to private landowners for this purpose, consistent  
5 with existing local strategies and priorities for tourism promotion.

6           **Sec. 2.** RCW 67.28.080 and 1997 c 452 s 2 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8           The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
9 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

10           (1) "Acquisition" includes, but is not limited to, siting,  
11 acquisition, design, construction, refurbishing, expansion, repair, and  
12 improvement, including paying or securing the payment of all or any  
13 portion of general obligation bonds, leases, revenue bonds, or other  
14 obligations issued or incurred for such purpose or purposes under this  
15 chapter.

16           (2) "Municipality" means any county, city, or town of the state of  
17 Washington.

18           (3) "Operation" includes, but is not limited to, operation,  
19 management, and marketing.

20           (4) "Person" means the federal government or any agency thereof,  
21 the state or any agency, subdivision, taxing district or municipal  
22 corporation thereof other than county, city or town, any private  
23 corporation, partnership, association, or individual.

24           (5) "Tourism" means economic activity resulting from tourists,  
25 which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or  
26 souvenirs.

27           (6) "Tourism promotion" (~~means~~) includes activities and  
28 expenditures designed to increase tourism, including but not limited to  
29 advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing information for the  
30 purpose of attracting and welcoming tourists; developing strategies to  
31 expand tourism; operating tourism promotion agencies; and funding  
32 marketing of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists.  
33 "Tourism promotion" also includes expenditures to owners of farms,  
34 forests, and open lands for habitat management that promote wildlife  
35 tourism.

36           (7) "Tourism-related facility" means real or tangible personal

1 property with a usable life of three or more years, or constructed with  
2 volunteer labor, and used to support tourism, performing arts, or to  
3 accommodate tourist activities.

4 (8) "Tourist" means a person who travels from a place of residence  
5 to a different town, city, county, state, or country, for purposes of  
6 business, pleasure, recreation, education, arts, heritage, or culture.

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