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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5883**

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**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation  
(originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1            AN ACT Relating to the University of Washington forest systems and  
2 bioenergy program; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that forests  
5 throughout the American west are suffering from the accumulation of  
6 small-diameter wood materials to levels well in excess of what would be  
7 found in natural forest ecosystems. This build-up of materials, which  
8 lack any current market value, is in large part a result of vigorous  
9 and successful forest fire suppression efforts over the last century  
10 and represents a significant threat to forest health and ecosystem  
11 function. In particular, the excess biomass accumulation causes a  
12 heightened risk of catastrophic wildfires, decreases water availability  
13 in downstream waterways, and increases the risk of large scale insect  
14 outbreaks.

15            In partnership with government scientists, rural community  
16 planners, and private industry, the University of Washington forest  
17 systems and bioenergy program is developing technology tools that use  
18 the abundant small-diameter wood materials as a cost-effective source  
19 of bioenergy for hydrogen fuel cells, biofuels for cars and engines,

1 and other chemical applications. Research priorities include: (1)  
2 Maximizing the conversion efficiency of wood to methanol; (2) analyzing  
3 the economic, environmental, and social impacts of establishing  
4 conversion systems at a variety of locations; and (3) establishing best  
5 practices to ensure a sustainable harvest of forest materials.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of forty thousand dollars, or as  
7 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
8 ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the University of  
9 Washington forest systems and bioenergy program for the purposes of  
10 this act.

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