

SB 6001-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Finds that: (1) Washington is especially vulnerable to climate change because of the state's dependence on snow pack for summer stream flows and because the expected rise in sea levels threatens our coastal communities;

(2) Washington's greenhouse gas emissions are continuing to increase;

(3) Washington has been a leader in actions to reduce the increase of emissions, including the adoption of clean car standards, stronger appliance energy efficiency standards, increased production and use of renewable liquid fuels, and increased renewable energy sources by electrical utilities;

(4) Washington has participated with other Western states in designing regional approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

(5) There is a need to assess the trend of emissions statewide over the next several decades, and to take sufficient actions so that Washington meets its responsibility to contribute to the global actions needed to reduce the impacts and the pace of global warming;

(6) Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will spur technology development and increase efficiency; and

(7) Numerous states and nations have adopted emission reduction goals to assist emission sources with planning for changes in practices and technologies.

Recognizes that companies that generate greenhouse gas emissions or manufacture products that generate such emissions are purchasing carbon credits from landowners and from other companies in order to provide carbon credits.

Intends to establish goals for the statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and reduction in petroleum use, and to adopt the governor's mechanism in Executive Order No. 07-02 to design and recommend a comprehensive set of measures to accomplish the goals.

Declares that immediate actions be authorized in the electric power generation sector for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to accelerate efficiency in the transportation sector.

Provides that the office of Washington state climatologist has the following powers and duties: (1) To serve as a credible and expert source of climate and weather information for state and local decision makers and agencies working on drought, flooding, climate change, and other related issues;

(2) To gather and disseminate, and where practicable archive, in the most cost-effective manner possible, all

climate and weather information that is or could be of value to policy and decision makers in the state;

(3) To act as the representative of the state in all climatological and meteorological matters, both within and outside of the state, when requested by the legislative or executive branches of the state government;

(4) To prepare, publish, and disseminate climate summaries for those individuals, agencies, and organizations whose activities are related to the welfare of the state and are affected by climate and weather;

(5) To supply critical information for drought preparedness and emergency response as needed to implement the state's drought contingency response plan maintained by the department of ecology under RCW 43.83B.410, and to serve as a member of the state's drought water supply and emergency response committees as may be formed in response to a drought event;

(6) To conduct and report on studies of climate and weather phenomena of significant socioeconomic importance to the state; and

(7) To evaluate the significance of natural and man-made changes in important features of the climate affecting the state, and to report this information to those agencies and organizations in the state who are likely to be affected by these changes.

VETO MESSAGE ON ESSB 6001

May 3, 2007

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning, without my approval as to Section 6, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6001 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to mitigating the impacts of climate change."

Section 6 of this bill is unnecessary. It was inserted when the bill contemplated minor adjustments to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's permit process. But those adjustments were ultimately removed from the bill. The Governor currently has ample existing authority without Section 6.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Section 6 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6001.

With the exception of Section 6, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6001 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor