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HOUSE BILL 2420

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By Representatives Kenney, Orcutt, Van De Wege, Conway, Kessler, Blake, Hope, Herrera, Lias, Sullivan, Campbell, Schmick, Quall, Dammeier, Chase, Takko, Morrell, and Smith

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1 AN ACT Relating to the promotion of the industries that rely on the  
2 state's working land base; amending RCW 43.330.310, 43.330.370, and  
3 28C.18.170, and 43.01.036; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW;  
4 and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that it is in the  
7 best interest of the state to support and enhance the critical economic  
8 and environmental role that Washington's forest products industry plays  
9 in the state. These roles not only provide a wide range of services  
10 and goods both to Washingtonians and people around the world, but also  
11 are vital to the well-being and lifestyle of the people of the state of  
12 Washington.

13 (2) The legislature further finds that the state's forest practices  
14 are sustainably managed according to some of the most stringent  
15 riparian growing and harvest rules of any state in the nation or in the  
16 world, and that the state of Washington has received fifty year  
17 assurances from the federal government that the state's forest  
18 practices satisfy the requirements of the federal endangered species  
19 act for aquatic species. As part of their environmental stewardship,

1 forest landowners in Washington have repaired or removed nearly three  
2 thousand fish passage barriers, returned nearly twenty-five hundred  
3 miles of forest roads to their natural condition, and opened up nearly  
4 fifteen hundred miles of riparian salmonid habitat.

5 (3) The legislature further finds that Washington's forests  
6 naturally create habitat for fish and wildlife, clean water, and carbon  
7 storage; all environmental benefits that are lost when land is  
8 converted out of working forestry into another use. In recognition of  
9 forestry's benefits, the international panel on climate change has  
10 reported that a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at  
11 maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an  
12 annual sustained yield of timber, fiber, wood products, or energy from  
13 the forest, will generate the largest sustained carbon mitigation  
14 benefit.

15 (4) The legislature further finds that the forest products industry  
16 is a seventeen billion dollar industry, making it Washington's second  
17 largest manufacturing industry. The forest products industry alone  
18 provides nearly forty-five thousand direct green jobs and one hundred  
19 sixty-two thousand indirect jobs, many located in rural areas.

20 (5) The legislature further finds that working forests help  
21 generate wealth through recreation and tourism, the creation of green  
22 jobs, and through the production of wood products and energy; a finding  
23 supported by the United States secretary of agriculture.

24 (6) The legislature further finds that for these reasons, and more,  
25 jobs connected to the forest products industry should be endorsed by  
26 the state and federal government as green jobs, or jobs that benefit  
27 the local economy in an environmentally sustainable and beneficial  
28 manner, and the forest products industry should be endorsed as a green  
29 industry.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) The department shall consider during the implementing of this  
33 chapter, and other state agencies shall consider when relevant, the  
34 forest products industry to be a green industry and included in any  
35 category of industries identified by their positive contributions to  
36 the state's environmental protection, ecological enhancement, clean  
37 energy future, or carbon reduction strategies.

1 (2) The term "forest products industry" must be given a broad  
2 interpretation when implementing this section and include, at a  
3 minimum, businesses that grow, manage, harvest, transport, and process,  
4 forest, wood, and paper products.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.330.310 and 2008 c 14 s 9 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The legislature establishes a comprehensive green economy jobs  
8 growth initiative based on the goal of, by 2020, increasing the number  
9 of green economy jobs to twenty-five thousand from the eight thousand  
10 four hundred green economy jobs the state had in 2004.

11 (2) The department, in consultation with the employment security  
12 department, the state workforce training and education coordinating  
13 board, the state board (~~(of [for])~~) for community and technical  
14 colleges, and the higher education coordinating board, and consistent  
15 with section 2 of this act, shall develop a defined list of terms,  
16 consistent with current workforce and economic development terms,  
17 associated with green economy industries and jobs.

18 (3)(a) The employment security department, in consultation with the  
19 department, the state workforce training and education coordinating  
20 board, the state board for community and technical colleges, the higher  
21 education coordinating board, Washington State University small  
22 business development center, and the Washington State University  
23 extension energy program, shall, consistent with section 2 of this act,  
24 conduct labor market research to analyze the current labor market and  
25 projected job growth in the green economy, the current and projected  
26 recruitment and skill requirement of green economy industry employers,  
27 the wage and benefits ranges of jobs within green economy industries,  
28 and the education and training requirements of entry-level and  
29 incumbent workers in those industries.

30 (b) The University of Washington business and economic development  
31 center shall: Analyze the current opportunities for and participation  
32 in the green economy by minority and women-owned business enterprises  
33 in Washington; identify existing barriers to their successful  
34 participation in the green economy; and develop strategies with  
35 specific policy recommendations to improve their successful  
36 participation in the green economy. The research may be informed by  
37 the research of the Puget Sound regional council prosperity

1 partnership, as well as other entities. The University of Washington  
2 business and economic development center shall report to the  
3 appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate  
4 on their research, analysis, and recommendations by December 1, 2008.

5 (4) Based on the findings from subsection (3) of this section, the  
6 employment security department, in consultation with the department and  
7 taking into account the requirements and goals of chapter 14, Laws of  
8 2008, section 2 of this act, and other state clean energy and energy  
9 efficiency policies, shall propose which industries will be considered  
10 high-demand green industries, based on current and projected job  
11 creation and their strategic importance to the development of the  
12 state's green economy. The employment security department and the  
13 department shall take into account which jobs within green economy  
14 industries will be considered high-wage occupations and occupations  
15 that are part of career pathways to the same, based on family-  
16 sustaining wage and benefits ranges. These designations, and the  
17 results of the employment security department's broader labor market  
18 research, shall inform the planning and strategic direction of the  
19 department, the state workforce training and education coordinating  
20 board, the state board for community and technical colleges, and the  
21 higher education coordinating board.

22 (5) The department shall identify emerging technologies and  
23 innovations that are likely to contribute to advancements in the green  
24 economy, including the activities in designated innovation partnership  
25 zones established in RCW 43.330.270.

26 (6) The department, consistent with the priorities established by  
27 the state economic development commission, shall:

28 (a) Develop targeting criteria for existing investments, and make  
29 recommendations for new or expanded financial incentives and  
30 comprehensive strategies, to recruit, retain, and expand green economy  
31 industries and small businesses; and

32 (b) Make recommendations for new or expanded financial incentives  
33 and comprehensive strategies to stimulate research and development of  
34 green technology and innovation, including designating innovation  
35 partnership zones linked to the green economy.

36 (7) For the purposes of this section, "target populations" means  
37 (a) entry-level or incumbent workers in high-demand green industries  
38 who are in, or are preparing for, high-wage occupations; (b) dislocated

1 workers in declining industries who may be retrained for high-wage  
2 occupations in high-demand green industries; (c) dislocated  
3 agriculture, timber, or energy sector workers who may be retrained for  
4 high-wage occupations in high-demand green industries; (d) eligible  
5 veterans or national guard members; (e) disadvantaged populations; or  
6 (f) anyone eligible to participate in the state opportunity grant  
7 program under RCW 28B.50.271.

8 (8) The legislature directs the state workforce training and  
9 education coordinating board to create and pilot green industry skill  
10 panels. These panels shall consist of business representatives from:  
11 Industry sectors related to clean energy, including energy derived from  
12 wood biomass, liquid biofuels, or bio-based products; labor unions  
13 representing workers in those industries or labor affiliates  
14 administering state-approved, joint apprenticeship programs or labor-  
15 management partnership programs that train workers for these  
16 industries((~~τ~~))i state and local veterans agencies((~~τ~~))i employer  
17 associations((~~τ~~))i educational institutions((~~τ~~and))i local workforce  
18 development councils within the region that the panels propose to  
19 operate((~~τ~~))i and other key stakeholders as determined by the  
20 applicant. Any of these stakeholder organizations are eligible to  
21 receive grants under this section and serve as the intermediary that  
22 convenes and leads the panel. Panel applicants must provide labor  
23 market and industry analysis that demonstrates high demand, or demand  
24 of strategic importance to the development of the state's clean energy  
25 economy as identified in this section, for high-wage occupations, or  
26 occupations that are part of career pathways to the same, within the  
27 relevant industry sector. The panel shall:

28 (a) Conduct labor market and industry analyses, in consultation  
29 with the employment security department, and drawing on the findings of  
30 its research when available;

31 (b) Plan strategies to meet the recruitment and training needs of  
32 the industry and small businesses; and

33 (c) Leverage and align other public and private funding sources.

34 (9) The green industries jobs training account is created in the  
35 state treasury. Moneys from the account must be utilized to supplement  
36 the state opportunity grant program established under RCW 28B.50.271.  
37 All receipts from appropriations directed to the account must be  
38 deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used

1 only for the activities identified in this subsection. The state board  
2 for community and technical colleges, in consultation with the state  
3 workforce training and education coordinating board, informed by the  
4 research of the employment security department and the strategies  
5 developed in this section, may authorize expenditures from the account.  
6 The state board for community and technical colleges must distribute  
7 grants from the account on a competitive basis.

8 (a)(i) Allowable uses of these grant funds, which should be used  
9 when other public or private funds are insufficient or unavailable, may  
10 include:

11 (A) Curriculum development;

12 (B) Transitional jobs strategies for dislocated workers in  
13 declining industries who may be retrained for high-wage occupations in  
14 green industries;

15 (C) Workforce education to target populations; and

16 (D) Adult basic and remedial education as necessary linked to  
17 occupation skills training.

18 (ii) Allowable uses of these grant funds do not include student  
19 assistance and support services available through the state opportunity  
20 grant program under RCW 28B.50.271.

21 (b) Applicants eligible to receive these grants may be any  
22 organization or a partnership of organizations that has demonstrated  
23 expertise in:

24 (i) Implementing effective education and training programs that  
25 meet industry demand; and

26 (ii) Recruiting and supporting, to successful completion of those  
27 training programs carried out under these grants, the target  
28 populations of workers.

29 (c) In awarding grants from the green industries jobs training  
30 account, the state board for community and technical colleges shall  
31 give priority to applicants that demonstrate the ability to:

32 (i) Use labor market and industry analysis developed by the  
33 employment security department and green industry skill panels in the  
34 design and delivery of the relevant education and training program, and  
35 otherwise utilize strategies developed by green industry (~~skills~~  
36 ~~{skill}~~) skill panels;

37 (ii) Leverage and align existing public programs and resources and

1 private resources toward the goal of recruiting, supporting, educating,  
2 and training target populations of workers;

3 (iii) Work collaboratively with other relevant stakeholders in the  
4 regional economy;

5 (iv) Link adult basic and remedial education, where necessary, with  
6 occupation skills training;

7 (v) Involve employers and, where applicable, labor unions in the  
8 determination of relevant skills and competencies and, where relevant,  
9 the validation of career pathways; and

10 (vi) Ensure that supportive services, where necessary, are  
11 integrated with education and training and are delivered by  
12 organizations with direct access to and experience with the targeted  
13 population of workers.

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.330.370 and 2009 c 536 s 2 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 The Washington state evergreen jobs initiative is established as a  
17 comprehensive green economy jobs growth initiative with the goals of:

18 (1) Creating fifteen thousand new green economy jobs by 2020, with  
19 a target of thirty percent of those jobs going to veterans, members of  
20 the national guard, and low-income and disadvantaged populations;

21 (2) Capturing and deploying federal funds in a focused, effective,  
22 and coordinated manner;

23 (3) Preparing the state's workforce to take full advantage of green  
24 economy job opportunities and to meet the recruitment and training  
25 needs of industry and small businesses;

26 (4) Attracting private sector investment that will create new and  
27 expand existing jobs, with an emphasis on services and products that  
28 have a high economic or environmental impact and can be exported  
29 domestically and internationally;

30 (5) Making Washington state a net exporter of green industry  
31 products and services, with special attention to renewable energy  
32 technology and components;

33 (6) Empowering local agencies and organizations to recruit green  
34 economy businesses and jobs into the state by providing state support  
35 and assistance;

36 (7) Capitalizing on existing partnership agreements in the  
37 Washington works plan and the Washington workforce compact; and

1 (8) Operating in concert with section 2 of this act and the  
2 fourteen guiding principles identified by the department in its  
3 Washington state's green economy strategic framework.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28C.18.170 and 2009 c 536 s 8 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislature directs the board to create and pilot green  
7 industry skill panels. These panels shall consist of business  
8 representatives from industry sectors related to clean energy, labor  
9 unions representing workers in those industries or labor affiliates  
10 administering state-approved, joint apprenticeship programs or labor-  
11 management partnership programs that train workers for these  
12 industries, state and local veterans agencies, employer associations,  
13 educational institutions, and local workforce development councils  
14 within the region that the panels propose to operate, and other key  
15 stakeholders as determined by the applicant. Any of these stakeholder  
16 organizations are eligible to receive grants under this section and  
17 serve as the intermediary that convenes and leads the panel. Panel  
18 applicants must provide labor market and industry analysis that  
19 demonstrates high demand, or demand of strategic importance to the  
20 development of the state's clean energy economy as identified in this  
21 section, for middle or high-wage occupations, or occupations that are  
22 part of career pathways to the same, within the relevant industry  
23 sector. The panel shall(~~(, in consultation with the department and the~~  
24 ~~leadership team))~~):

25 (a) Conduct labor market and industry analyses, in consultation  
26 with the employment security department, and drawing on the findings of  
27 its research when available;

28 (b) Recommend strategies to meet the recruitment and training needs  
29 of the industry and small businesses; and

30 (c) Recommend strategies to leverage and align other public and  
31 private funding sources.

32 (2) The board may prioritize workforce training programs that lead  
33 to a credential, certificate, or degree in green economy jobs. For  
34 purposes of this section, green economy jobs include those in the  
35 primary industries of a green economy, including clean energy, high-  
36 efficiency building, green transportation, and environmental  
37 protection. Prioritization efforts may include but are not limited to:



1 (a) Prioritization of the use of high employer-demand funding for  
2 workforce training programs in green economy jobs; (b) increased  
3 outreach efforts to public utilities, education, labor, government, and  
4 private industry to develop tailored, green job training programs; and  
5 (c) increased outreach efforts to target populations. Outreach efforts  
6 may be conducted in partnership with local workforce development  
7 councils.

8 (3) The definitions in RCW 43.330.010, and the requirements of  
9 section 2 of this act, apply to this section.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.01.036 and 2009 c 518 s 24 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 (1)(a)(i) All reports required to be submitted to the legislature  
13 shall be provided only in an electronic format. Reports must be  
14 submitted electronically to the chief clerk of the house of  
15 representatives and the secretary of the senate. The chief clerk of  
16 the house of representatives and the secretary of the senate shall  
17 provide an online site for reports submitted to the legislature on the  
18 legislative internet home page. The reports shall be organized in such  
19 a way as to make the reports easy to find and accessible by  
20 legislators, staff, and the public.

21 (~~(b)~~) (ii) Upon electronic submittal of the required report to  
22 the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the secretary of  
23 the senate, the agency shall send a letter, also by electronic means,  
24 to the appropriate legislative committee that the report has been  
25 filed. The letter may include a brief summary of the report. The  
26 public entity submitting the report may make hard copies available by  
27 request.

28 (~~(2)(a)~~) (b)(i) All annual and biennial reports to the governor  
29 shall be provided only in an electronic format. The reports shall be  
30 organized in such a way as to make the reports easy to find and  
31 accessible by the public.

32 (~~(b)~~) (ii) Upon electronic submittal of the required report to  
33 the governor's office, the agency shall send a letter, also by  
34 electronic means, that the report has been filed. The letter may  
35 include a brief summary of the report. The entity submitting the  
36 report may make hard copies available by request.

1       (2)(a) All agency environmental or economic analyses and studies  
2 that result in a written report or other formal publication of findings  
3 must, when relevant and not specifically exempted by the authority  
4 requiring the analyses, consider the forest products industry to be a  
5 green industry and included in any category of industries identified by  
6 their positive contributions to the state's environmental protection,  
7 ecological enhancement, clean energy future, or carbon reduction  
8 strategies.

9       (b) If an agency conducts relevant analyses or studies that exclude  
10 the forest products industry from an industrial category identified in  
11 this subsection, then any resulting report or other publication must  
12 include a section explaining the rationale for excluding the forest  
13 products industry from the agency categorization.

14       (c) Agencies shall give broad interpretation to the term "forest  
15 products industry" when implementing this subsection and include, at a  
16 minimum, businesses that grow, manage, harvest, transport, and process  
17 forest, wood, and paper products.

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