
SENATE BILL 5273

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Swecker, Rockefeller, Schoesler, Ranker, Morton, Hatfield, Delvin, Sheldon, Regala, and Hewitt; by request of Commissioner of Public Lands

Read first time 01/19/11. Referred to Committee on Environment, Water & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the department of natural resources
2 to conduct a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project to
3 facilitate Washington leading the nation in aviation biofuel
4 production; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that forest biomass is
7 an abundant and renewable by-product of Washington's forest land
8 management. Forest biomass can be utilized to generate clean renewable
9 aviation fuels.

10 In some Washington forests, residual forest biomass is burned on
11 site or left to decompose. The lack of forest products markets in some
12 areas means that removal of standing forest biomass for forest health
13 and wildfire risk reduction treatments must occur at substantial cost.
14 Utilizing forest biomass to generate clean renewable aviation fuels can
15 reduce greenhouse gases emitted from burning forest biomass in open
16 slash piles.

17 Research recently conducted in the Pacific Northwest found that
18 emissions from regulated facilities utilizing forest residuals as their

1 feedstock emitted fewer greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than
2 burning the feedstock in an open slash burn or, in some cases, fewer
3 emissions than leaving the biomass to biodegrade.

4 The legislature acknowledges that the department of natural
5 resources, to ensure that forest biomass be collected from Washington's
6 forests in a manner that does not jeopardize forest health, recently
7 revised the definition of a forest practice to include removal of
8 forest biomass. Today, forest biomass must be harvested in compliance
9 with all relevant forest practices rules.

10 The legislature finds that making use of the state's forest biomass
11 resources for aviation fuel production may increase the value of
12 Washington's commercial forest lands, generate new revenues from state
13 lands, protect forest land of all ownerships from severe forest health
14 problems and uncharacteristic wildfire, stimulate Washington's economy,
15 create green jobs, and reduce Washington's dependence on foreign oil.

16 The legislature finds that opportunities exist to create
17 living-wage green jobs through the development of an aviation biofuel
18 sector in the state. Exploring opportunities for the forest products
19 sector to collaborate with the states existing aviation sector to meet
20 renewable energy goals will also help maintain existing jobs in both of
21 these industries.

22 The legislature finds that work is already underway in exploring
23 the potential of linking Washington's strong past in both timber and
24 aeronautics with our future in renewable energy. The department of
25 natural resource's forest biomass initiative and the sustainable
26 aviation fuel northwest initiative have set the stage to enable
27 Washington to emerge as a national leader in greening our country's and
28 our world's aviation fuel.

29 It is the intent of the legislature to support existing efforts
30 through the development and implementation of a forest biomass to
31 aviation fuel demonstration biofacility project and strategy for
32 initiating a broad forest biomass to aviation fuel sector in
33 Washington.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of natural resources may
35 develop and implement a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration
36 project.

37 (1) The demonstration project must be designed to:

1 (a) Demonstrate opportunities for state lands to generate trust
2 income through the development of aviation biofuel production capacity;

3 (b) Create green jobs;

4 (c) Avoid interfering with the current supply area for forest
5 biomass collection surrounding an existing fixed location biomass
6 energy production site;

7 (d) Be consistent with report findings from the University of
8 Washington and the department of natural resources concerning
9 operationally and ecologically sustainable feedstocks and production
10 processes;

11 (e) Comply with the state's existing energy efficiency goals. In
12 selecting a site for the demonstration project, preference must be
13 given to facilities that are already highly energy efficient or that
14 will gain significant efficiency through the installation of a
15 biofacility utilizing waste heat and energy.

16 (2) To develop and implement the forest biomass to aviation fuel
17 demonstration project, the department of natural resources may form
18 forest biomass aviation fuel partnerships. These partnerships are
19 encouraged to:

20 (a) Be public-private partnerships focused on convening the
21 entities necessary to grow, harvest, process, transport, and utilize
22 forest biomass to generate sustainable aviation fuel;

23 (b) Employ emerging technologies that emphasize efficient feedstock
24 utilization (most energy/dry ton of product);

25 (c) Include representatives from, but not limited to:
26 Entrepreneurs or organizations developing and operating emerging forest
27 biomass processing technologies; contractors capable of providing the
28 local labor needed to collect, process, and transport feedstocks;
29 tribes, federal land management agencies, county, city, and other local
30 governments and other state agencies; workforce development
31 organizations; accredited research institutions; aviation companies;
32 ports; existing biofuel production facilities; oil refining companies
33 located in Washington; not-for-profit conservation organizations;
34 private forest landowners; and forest product manufacturers.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** By December 2012, the department of natural
36 resources in collaboration with the department of commerce and research
37 institutions, through the convening and conduct of an expert panel

1 comprised of, but not limited to, representatives from state agencies,
2 local governments, natural resource industries, biofuel producers, oil
3 refiners, utilities, infrastructure providers, transportation fuel
4 markets, and environmental groups, shall provide the legislature with
5 a report detailing a strategy for developing a broad forest biomass to
6 aviation biofuel sector in the state. The report must:

7 (1) Integrate forest biomass supply data being collected and report
8 findings by the University of Washington in collaboration with the
9 department of natural resources to be used to estimate potential forest
10 biomass supply and potential aviation production volumes;

11 (2) Include a fully vetted supply chain strategy for forest biomass
12 to aviation fuel;

13 (3) Identify existing and potential sites where bioprocessing could
14 be colocated, such as operating or closed pulp and paper installations
15 and other existing industrial sites;

16 (4) Identify state and other public resources that can be used to
17 accelerate the supply chain development including, but not limited to:
18 Education and work-force training needs; transportation and utility
19 infrastructure; and biofuels and bioproduct purchase contracts by
20 public agencies;

21 (5) Identify opportunities to collaborate with other states and
22 federal agencies;

23 (6) Address and plan to ensure sustainability, leveraging existing
24 safeguards such as the state's forest practices rules;

25 (7) Include estimates on the number of jobs retained and created
26 through the development of a forest biomass to aviation fuel sector;

27 (8) Identify funding opportunities available for a forest biomass
28 to aviation fuel demonstration project;

29 (9) Identify any opportunities for legislative action that could
30 further facilitate a biomass to aviation fuel industry;

31 (10) Identify and explore linkages with the president's biofuels
32 interagency working group. This must include:

33 (a) A clear description of a full supply chain opportunity in
34 Washington; and

35 (b) A request for federal funding to support this effort;

36 (11) Provide an update on progress toward implementation of a

1 demonstration biofacility in the state pursuant to section 2 of this
2 act.

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