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SENATE BILL 5118

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Cleveland, Hobbs, Frockt, Nelson, Lias, Pedersen, Keiser, Chase, Rolfes, Fraser, Conway, and Mullet

Read first time 01/14/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a bistate work group for certain  
2 transportation projects; adding a new section to chapter 47.28 RCW;  
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The development of a bistate megaproject  
6 takes years of hard work and difficult decisions. Once a megaproject  
7 has reached the stage in its development when the federal government  
8 has issued a record of decision, the megaproject must move forward.  
9 To allow otherwise is to waste tens of millions of dollars of  
10 taxpayer money, destroy bistate relationships and trust, and stall  
11 economic growth and productivity in the entire region.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.28  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) As used in this section, "bistate megaproject" means a  
15 highway construction project valued at five hundred million dollars  
16 or more that extends across the border between Washington and another  
17 state.

18 (2) The department must notify the transportation committees of  
19 the legislature when it initiates work with another state to prepare

1 an environmental impact statement that complies with the national  
2 environmental policy act on a bistate megaproject.

3 (3) In conjunction with developing the environmental impact  
4 statement with the other state, the department must establish a  
5 bistate megaproject work group. The purpose of the work group is to  
6 assist the department in the preparation of the environmental impact  
7 statement and to facilitate communication between the legislative  
8 bodies and other key stakeholders of the respective states. The  
9 bistate megaproject work group must serve as an advisory body that  
10 will support the department by providing continuity in the  
11 development of the megaproject, beginning with crafting the  
12 environmental impact statement all the way through the final  
13 construction of the megaproject. The bistate megaproject work group  
14 must, at a minimum, contain members of the legislature of both  
15 states, representatives of the executive branches of both states, and  
16 other appropriate public and private stakeholders as determined by  
17 the department. The department must provide administrative and staff  
18 support to the work group as necessary.

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