

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HCR 4402

As Reported by House Committee On:
State Government & Tribal Relations

Brief Description: Renaming the Natural Resources Building as the Jennifer Belcher Building.

Sponsors: Representatives Doglio, Santos, Ryu, Pollet, Bateman, Goodman and Senn.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Relations: 2/14/23, 2/15/23 [DP].

Brief Summary of Concurrent Resolution

- Renames the "Natural Resources Building" as the "Jennifer Belcher Building."
- Directs the Department of Enterprise Services to place the new name on the building.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Ramos, Chair; Stearns, Vice Chair; Abbarno, Ranking Minority Member; Christian, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Gregerson, Low and Mena.

Staff: Jason Zolle (786-7124).

Background:

Representative Jennifer Belcher served Washington's twenty-second Legislative District from 1983 to 1992, serving on 10 House Committees over the course of her tenure. She served her full tenure on the Natural Resources Committee and was its chair from 1989 to 1992. Representative Belcher was one of six female state representatives dubbed the "Steel Magnolias" who led a successful effort to transform land use regulation by crafting the

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Growth Management Act. She was also the first woman to be elected Washington State's Commissioner of Public Lands, where she attained a 50-year habitat conservation plan for management of state forestlands, turning the state's premier land management agency toward conservation.

The Legislature is authorized to approve names for certain state facilities based on recommendations from the State Capitol Committee and the Department of Enterprise Services, with the advice of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee and subject to specific criteria.

The state office building at 1111 Washington Street SE is known as the "Natural Resources Building."

Summary of Bill:

The Natural Resources Building is renamed the "Jennifer Belcher Building." The Department of Enterprise Services is directed to place that name on the building.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In Support) Jennifer Belcher was one of those trailblazing women that made a difference in the lives of many young women growing up in the political sphere. She did a tremendous amount of work to protect the environment and advance women's issues. Her work to protect Spotted Owls established her as a visionary leader in forest policy in Washington and the entire United States, and she remained a leader in her later days as a citizen. The agencies in the building to be renamed benefit greatly from her habitat protection plans.

(Opposed) None.

(Other) There are statutory requirements for renaming buildings on the Capitol Campus. The process is overseen by the State Capitol Committee, and this topic is included as an agenda item for their next meeting on February 16.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Beth Doglio, prime sponsor; Cynthia Stewart, League of Women Voters of Washington; Lonnie Johns-Brown; Karen Fraser; and Peter Goldmark.

(Other) Christopher Ferguson, Department of Enterprise Services.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.