



**Week 1 Report
01.17.26**

For this year's WPPA Weekly Legislative Report, we've decided to dispense with our long-winded intros in favor of getting right to the issues we are tracking. We are also highlighting three key things each week at the top of the report that you can quickly scan even if you don't have time to go deeper into the report. As always, we welcome your feedback on anything included below, and on the format and manner in which we present it.

Thank you!

-WPPA team

This Week's 3 Key Things:

- Ports in CETA: [HB 2245/SB 5982](#) would require public port districts to comply with the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) by being included in the definition of consumer-owned utilities. This would be brand new requirements under the state energy goals if ports generate and sell energy to at least one customer. WPPA has concerns with the proposal and is engaged with stakeholders and bill sponsors. Staff [testified](#) at the public hearings in the House Energy & Environment Committee and the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee on January 13th. The House version is scheduled for an executive session on January 22nd, and the Senate version is scheduled for an executive session on January 23rd.

- Port Employee Pensions: [HB 2179/SB 5905](#) would allow a small number of impacted ports to continue to make contributions to employee pension plans that are outside of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). WPPA worked with Senator Shelly Short (R-7th, Addy) after being alerted to the issue by the Ports of Pend Oreille and Vancouver. This bill also impacts a small number of employees at the Ports of Longview and Seattle. WPPA testified in support at the public hearing in the House Appropriations Committee on January 15th along

AT A GLANCE

Length: 60 days; Regular session began on January 12, 2026

For up-to-date legislative information, visit: leg.wa.gov

To listen to a legislative hearing, visit: tvw.org

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SESSION CUTOFF DATES

- February 4: House of Origin Policy Cutoff
- February 9: House of Origin Fiscal Cutoff
- February 17: House of Origin Floor Cutoff
- February 25: Opposite House Policy Cutoff
- March 2: Opposite House Fiscal Cutoff
- March 6: Opposite House Floor Cutoff
- March 12: Last Day of Session

For more information about cutoff dates, visit: leg.wa.gov

with the Ports of Pend Oreille and Vancouver. SB 5905 is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on January 20th.

- Lower Columbia River Channel Maintenance Plan: The Governor's proposed supplemental transportation budget proposal includes \$15 million in funding for the state's initial contribution toward the 20-year plan to maintain the Lower Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel at 43 feet. This is a priority for WPPA and was included in our 2026 Legislative Agenda as part of our WA Trade Strategy. We testified in support of the budget proposal and expressed appreciation to the Governor for prioritizing this investment at the public hearings in both the House and Senate Transportation Committees this week.

Action Alert - Sign in on the following bill

NOTE: WPPA staff are working hard on the legislative proposals highlighted in this section and would love your support! If you're comfortable signing in "pro" or "con" to show your port's position, we would be grateful! If you're interested in signing in, but unsure of the process, please reach out to WPPA staff. We will use this area of the report to briefly spotlight bills that would benefit from your engagement.

Sign in PRO - Support: [SB 5905](#), Port Employee Pensions - public hearing January 20th in the Senate Ways & Means Committee

WPPA Weekly Bill Tracking Update

**Indicates A New Bill Introduced in 2026*

Aviation

SEA Environmental Justice and Community Engagement

[SB 5652/ HB 1948](#) - Sen. Orwall (D-33rd, Des Moines), Rep. Santos (D-37th, Seattle)

This proposal would require the Port of Seattle to develop new and additional environmental justice implementation plans, engage with overburdened communities, and assess the environmental and health impacts of any "port action" costing more than \$8 million. WPPA remains concerned about what the bill could mean for SEA's ability to accommodate demand and will testify to those concerns at the public hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee on January 21st.

****Sustainable Aviation Fuel Development***

[SB 5932/ HB 2322](#) - Sen. Warnick (13th, Moses Lake), Rep. Dent (13th, Moses Lake)

This bipartisan bill aims to encourage and support the production and use of alternative jet fuel in Washington by modifying tax rates. It creates production and use tax credits for alternative jet fuel, contingent on meeting carbon intensity reduction standards. WPPA supports this legislation based on our members' engagement in supporting the development of a robust sustainable aviation fuel industry. The bill has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee.

Broadband

****Broadband Infrastructure Repair & Replacement:***

[SB 5188](#) - Sen. Wellman (D-41st, Mercer Island)

This bill would allow the Public Works Board to fund repair projects for broadband infrastructure by either grants or loans. WPPA supported this bill throughout the 2025 Session. This bill

appears likely for early action - on January 13th, the bill was advanced out of the Rules Committee and is eligible for consideration by the full Senate at any time.

Economic Development

***Industrial Land Banks**

[HB 2006](#) – Rep. Ybarra (R-13th, Quincy)

This bill extends and updates a planning tool for certain rural counties that want to promote industrial economic development outside urban growth areas. It would allow eligible rural counties to establish up to two “industrial land bank” areas in their comprehensive plans. WPPA supports this legislation based on member feedback and will sign in pro at the public hearing in the House Local Government Committee on January 20th.

***MATCH Act 2.0**

[HB 2186](#) – Rep. Barnard (R-8th, Pasco)

This bill requires the Dept. of Commerce to support local agencies in the acquisition of federal funds to promote economic development. WPPA supports this bill and signed in pro at the public hearing in the House Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans Committee on January 16th. The bill is scheduled for an executive session on January 23rd.

***Rural Public Facilities Funding**

[SB 6149](#) – Sen. Wilson, J. (R-19th, Longview)

This bill would expand the definition of rural counties to those counties with a population density over 100 people per square mile but no city over 75,000 people for the purposes of funding eligibility in programs such as CERB and .09. The bill has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Business, Trade & Economic Development Committee.

Energy

Utility Connection Charges for Industrial Symbiosis

[HB 1302](#) - Rep. Cortes (D-38th, Everett)

This bill would put a definition of “industrial symbiosis” into statute and would grant municipal utilities the ability to waive connection fees for organizations undertaking industrial symbiosis development projects. WPPA supported this bill last year. It passed the House in 2025, and this week moved through the House again this session before being sent to the Senate and referred to the Environment, Energy & Technology Committee. No public hearing has been scheduled.

Electric Transmission System Improvements

[SB 5466/HB 1673](#) – Sen. Shewmake (D-42nd), Rep. Ramel (D-40th, Bellingham)

This proposal creates an Electric Transmission Authority and provides opportunities for certain SEPA exemptions. SB 5466 is scheduled for a public hearing on January 21st in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee. WPPA was supportive of this effort last session and is reviewing the updated legislation and seeking feedback from members and stakeholders.

Adopting California Emissions Standards for Ocean-Going Vessels [Shore Power]

[HB 1689](#) - Rep. Reed (D-36th, Seattle)

This bill would adopt CA at-berth emissions standards that require any ocean-going vessel visiting a port, terminal, or berth to connect to shore power or implement an alternative emissions control strategy. Shore power is the most feasible option but comes with many challenges to implement with limited resources, time, and energy availability. WPPA opposed

this bill in 2025 and has been engaging with stakeholders and the bill author this session. There are no new updates to the bill currently, but we expect the bill to move forward again this session. It has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in the House Environment & Energy Committee.

Energy Facility Site Evaluation

[HB 1237/SB 5246](#) - Rep. Fitzgibbon (D-34th, West Seattle), Sen. Shewmake (D-42nd, Bellingham)

This bill seeks to help improve the process for application decisions of clean energy facilities by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC). The bill adds more certainty to what EFSEC can recommend to the Governor. WPPA supports this legislation. It has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing in either the House or Senate.

Increasing Transmission Capacity

[HB 1819](#) - Rep. Barnard (R-8th, Pasco)

This proposal aims to increase electrical transmission capacity by streamlining grid upgrades including a SEPA categorical exemption and updating utility action plan requirements. The bill passed the House in 2025, but it did not pass the Senate. It was referred back to the House Rules Committee where it will need to pass a House floor vote before it can be referred to the Senate. WPPA continues to support this bill.

***Advanced Nuclear Energy**

[HB 2090/SB 5821](#) - Rep. Barnard (R-8th, Pasco), Sen. Braun (R-20th, Centralia)

This bipartisan bill would require the Dept. of Commerce to add nuclear energy to the state energy strategy by December 2026. WPPA supports this effort and signed in pro at the public hearing in the House Environment and Energy Committee on January 13th and the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee on January 16th.

***Renewable Energy Contracting**

[HB 2103/SB 6004](#) - Rep. Stearns (D-47th, Auburn), Sen. Boehnke (R-8th, Kennewick)

This bill aligns the language in CETA with the contracting statutes for consumer owned utilities to allow for advanced contracting for the generation of projects such as small modular nuclear reactors. WPPA supports this legislation and signed in pro at the public hearing in the House Local Government Committee on January 20th and the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee on January 16th. It is scheduled for an executive session in both committees on January 23rd.

***Regional Transportation Plans**

[HB 2134](#) - Rep. Duerr (D-1st, Bothell)

This bill would require regional transportation plans in most counties in the western part of the state, and possibly Benton and Franklin, include plans for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. WPPA is seeking feedback from stakeholders on this bill. It is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Transportation Committee on January 19th.

***Port Districts Under CETA**

[HB 2245/SB 5982](#) - Rep. Doglio (D-22nd, Olympia), Sen. Hunt (D-5th, Issaquah)

This bill would add public port districts to the definition of consumer-owned utilities and require them to comply with CETA if they generate and sell energy to at least one customer. WPPA has concerns about this bill and is engaged with stakeholders and bill sponsors. Staff testified at the public hearings in the House Energy & Environment Committee and the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee on January 13th. The House version is scheduled for an

executive session on January 22nd, and the Senate version is scheduled for an executive session on January 23rd. This same language including public port districts in CETA is also in [HB 2515/SB 6171](#) relating to large energy use facilities. Both bills are scheduled for a public hearing next week on January 22nd and January 23rd respectively.

***Embodied Carbon in Buildings**

[HB 2273](#) – Rep. Duerr (D-1st, Bothell)

This bill updates the state energy code to require new and renovated buildings account for and mitigate the release of embodied carbon in their materials including a 30% reduction in embodied carbon emissions for permitted construction. This bill is similar to legislation from 2025. The bill received a public hearing in the House Local Government Committee on January 16th and is scheduled for an executive session on January 23rd. WPPA is seeking feedback on the bill for potential port impact. It has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

***Waste to Energy Facilities**

[HB 2416/SB 6092](#) – Rep. Hill (D-3rd, Spokane), Sen. Riccelli (D-3rd, Spokane)

Reasonably adjusts compliance requirements under the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) for waste to energy facilities. The waste to energy facility in Spokane is the only of its kind in the state. There are a couple of ports with international flights that rely on the facility's assured destructive services for waste, which is federally required to be incinerated. WPPA supports this bill and will testify at the public hearing in the House Environment & Energy Committee on January 20th.

Environment & Natural Resources

Environmental Justice SEPA Element

[HB 1303/SB 5380](#) - Rep. Mena (D-29th, Tacoma), Sen. Lovelett (D-40th, Anacortes)

This bill would integrate environmental justice (EJ) considerations into certain projects at the Department of Ecology by adding it as an element of the environment in the SEPA checklist. WPPA worked with a coalition of stakeholders in 2025 to raise concerns about this bill and engaged over the interim. WPPA will be opposed to any proposal that adds substantial, additional time and cost to projects going through SEPA. We do not expect any additional changes to the bill this session. SB 5380 did not receive a hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee in 2025. HB 1303 was re-referred to the House Appropriations Committee on January 12th for consideration of the fiscal impact, which continues to be high at over \$6.4 million for implementation from last session.

Emissions From Ocean-Going Vessels [Scrubbers]

[HB 1652/SB 5519](#) - Rep. Lekanoff (D-40th, Bow), Sen. Lovelett (D-40th, Anacortes)

The bill from last session sought to reduce emissions from ocean-going vessels by mandating the use of low-sulfur fuel within three miles of Washington shorelines. The [proposed substitute](#) bill contains similar language but with new definitions and record-keeping requirements. WPPA has engaged with impacted ports and other stakeholders to oppose this bill in 2025 and is working with stakeholders again this session. HB 1652 is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Environment & Energy Committee on January 19th. WPPA is planning to testify but is still reviewing the substitute amendment. SB 5519 has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee.

Permitting and Licensing Timeline Adherence

[HB 2198/SB 5968](#) – Rep. Richards (D-26th, Gig Harbor), Sen. Krishnadasan (D-26th, Gig Harbor)

This bill gives the authority and requires agencies that review any permitting applications to reimburse application fees if agency established timelines are not met. It also requires a centralized database and inventory of all permit applications and status. This bill comes at the request of the Governor's office. WPPA testified in support of this bill the public hearing in the Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections Committee on January 16th. SB 5968 is scheduled for executive session on January 23rd. WPPA will plan to testify in support at the House State Government & Tribal Relations Committee public hearing on January 23rd.

***Carbon Capture**

[HB 2285](#) – Rep. Ybarra (D-13th, Ybarra)

This bill would provide clarity under CETA to allow for the use of specified carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technologies which will allow certain projects to move forward. WPPA supports this legislation based on feedback from members with impacted projects in their communities. The bill received a hearing in the House Environment & Energy Committee on January 12th and does not have an executive session scheduled.

***Regulating 6PPD**

[SB 6119/HB 2421](#) – Sen. Lias (D-21st, Edmonds), Rep. Hall (D-5th, Issaquah)

This bill would ban the manufacturing and sale of tires containing 6PPD beginning in 2035 and establishes a per tire fee beginning in 2027. This was estimated to generate \$12-15 million in revenue with some of the penalties being directed to the MTCA Account. WPPA is seeking feedback on the potential implications of this bill. HB 2421 is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Environment & Energy Committee on January 19th, while SB 6119 is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee on January 20th.

Environmental Crimes

[SB 5360](#) - Sen. Trudeau (D-27th, Tacoma)

This bill creates new definitions for environmental crimes such as violations of the state Water Pollution Control Act, Clean Air Act, Hazardous Waste Management Act, and others. The bill increases penalties for these crimes up to certain first- and second-degree felony violations. WPPA worked extensively in 2025 to express concerns about this bill. The bill passed the Senate in the 2025 session with amendments and now starts the 2026 session in the Senate Rules Committee where it will need to be brought up for a Senate floor vote again before it can be referred to the House.

Governance

***Third Party Litigation**

[HB 2255](#) – Rep. Walen (D-48th, Kirkland)

This bill would establish standards for third-party litigation funding in Washington, including disclosure and agreement-production requirements for along with contract limits and enforcement provisions under the Consumer Protection Act. WPPA is seeking feedback on this bill from our Legal Committee. It is scheduled to receive a public hearing in the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee on January 21st.

***State & Tribal Government to Government Relations**

[HB 2281](#) – Rep. Stearns (D-47th, Auburn)

This bill would apply to any agency action that may affect a tribal "traditional cultural place" and requires state agencies to provide early written notification and consultation prior to any of the outlined specified actions. WPPA is monitoring this proposal based on its potential impact on agency decision-making times, rulemaking, and enforcement. The bill had a public hearing in the House State Government & Tribal Relations Committee on January 13th and is scheduled for executive session on January 20th.

***Public Records Act: Employee Information**

[SB 6123](#) – Sen. Conway (D-29th, Tacoma)

This bill would prevent the disclosure of individual employee demographic information. This was requested by Pierce County due to concerns that employees in certain demographic groups could be targeted for harassment. WPPA supports this bill. It is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections Committee on January 23rd.

Labor & Workforce

***Electronic Monitoring of Employees**

[HB 2144](#) – Rep. Parshley (D-22nd, Olympia)

This bill would require employers to provide written notice to their employees if electronic monitoring is used to evaluate job performance. Concerns have been raised by members of the business community about the scope and lack of clarity with this bill. WPPA is seeking feedback as it evaluates any port-specific impacts. The bill received a public hearing in the House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee on January 14th. It is scheduled for an executive session on January 23rd.

***Port Employee Pensions**

[HB 2179/SB 5905](#) – Rep. Abell (R-7th, Inchelium), Sen. Short (R-7th, Addy)

This bill would allow a small number of impacted ports to continue to make contributions to employee pension plans that are outside of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). WPPA worked with Senator Short on this legislative proposal after being alerted to this situation by the Ports of Pend Oreille and Vancouver. This bill also impacts a small number of employees at the Ports of Longview and Seattle. WPPA testified in support at the public hearing in the House Appropriations Committee on January 15th, along with representatives from the Ports of Pend Oreille and Vancouver. SB 5905 is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on January 20th.

***Maritime Trades Education Tax Credits**

[HB 2398](#) – Rep. Richards (D-26th, Gig Harbor)

This bill would provide a business and occupation and public utility tax credit for small businesses providing maritime educational assistance to their employees. Employers of up to 50 people would be eligible. WPPA supports this bill as an effort to support growth in the marine trades. The bill has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing in the House Finance Committee.

Land Use

No bills included in this report.

Marina

***Derelict Vessels**

[HB 2199](#) – Rep. Richards (D-26th, Gig Harbor)

This bill allows for problem vessels that have not been registered for two years or more to be declared derelict and for the custody process to begin so they can be removed. It makes minor changes to the custody process to ensure proper notification of the legal owner. A workgroup of Kitsap County Ports, County Officials, and Dept. of Natural Resources staff brought this bill forward. WPPA supports this bill. It has not been scheduled for a hearing in the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

***Commercial Shellfish Fees**

[SB 5996](#) – Sen. MacEwen (R-35th, Shelton)

This bill would freeze commercial shellfish fees on harvesters, processors, and exporters through June 30, 2027, with the goal of supporting the industry. WPPA is seeking feedback on this proposal. The bill has not been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

Public Works

***Small Works Roster**

[HB 2420](#) – Rep. Zahn (D-41st, Bellevue)

This gradually increases the thresholds for the use of the small works roster from in 2026 \$530K to \$650K by July 1, 2030. This bill was brought forward by the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) based on extensive discussions over the interim with public owners, labor organizations, and contractors. WPPA supports this bill. It has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing in the House Capital Budget Committee.

Recreation & Tourism

***Tourism Promotion Funding: Lodging Tax**

[HB 2278](#) – Rep. Barnard (R-8th, Pasco)

This bill removes the expiration date on the lodging tax assessed to visitors of the state, which provides funding to the state's tourism promotion account. WPPA is seeking feedback on this bill and will be meeting with tourism industry stakeholders. It is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans Committee on January 21st.

***Tourism Promotion Funding: Industry Self-Assessment**

[HB 2325/SB 6061](#) – Rep. Paul (D-10th, Oak Harbor), Sen. Riccelli (D-3rd, Spokane)

This bill would establish a tourism self-supported assessment program to fund statewide tourism promotion. It also creates the governance and oversight structure of the program to ensure industry compliance and engagement. WPPA is seeking feedback on this bill and will be meeting with tourism industry stakeholders. HB 2325 is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans Committee on January 21st and SB 6061 is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Business, Trade & Economic Development Committee on January 22nd.

Revenue & Tax

***Aircraft Fuel Tax to Aeronautics Account**

[SB 5898](#) – Sen. Boehnke (R-8th, Kennewick)

This bill directs the proceeds of the hazardous substance tax on aircraft fuel to the aeronautics account at WSDOT, which funds local airport projects. The proceeds are currently deposited in the general fund where they fund environmental cleanups under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). WPPA is evaluating this bill for its potential impact on the MTCA capital account. It has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. While not a companion bill, [HB 1730](#) (Rep. Orcutt, R-20th, Kalama) is very similar to SB 5898.

Renewable Energy Personal Property Tax Exemption

[HB 1960](#) - Rep. Ramel (D-40th, Bellingham)

This bill authorizes a personal property tax exemption for qualified renewable energy facilities and replaces their personal property tax obligation with a new state and local renewable energy excise tax. The intent of the bill sponsor and proponents is to address what they view as an unintentional “property tax shift” that results from the development and current tax treatment of large renewable energy facilities. In 2025, WPPA testified with concerns about the bill’s impact on the port tax levy. We have met with the WA Counties Association who are requesting this bill and have worked with the sponsor on numerous changes, including removal of the language which initially caused us concerns and is continuing to engage with stakeholders to gather feedback. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Finance Committee on January 23rd.

***Sales Tax on Live Performances**

[HB 2101](#) – Rep. Dufault (R-15th, Selah)

This bill would exempt organizations that charge registration fees for live performances (including WPPA Conferences) from paying sales tax. The 2025 revenue package included provisions which required organizations that host conferences to pay sales tax for the first time. WPPA supports this legislation. The bill has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing in the House Finance Committee.

***Local Government Taxing Authority**

[HB 2442](#) – Rep. Berg (D-44th, Mill Creek)

This bill expands local taxing authority for cities and counties by modifying levy limits, real estate excise tax (REET) uses, and utility taxes. WPPA is seeking feedback and talking with stakeholders to assess its potential impact on port lines of business and tax levy collection. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Finance Committee on January 20th.

Transportation

***I-5 Bridge Tolling Funds**

[HB 2111](#) – Rep. Fey (D-27th, Tacoma)

This bill will allow the future I-5 replacement bridge tolling account to receive its proportionate share of earnings once the tolls begin to be collected. This bill is essential to the financing of the project which is supported by WPPA for its importance to freight mobility in the region. The bill received a hearing in the House Transportation Committee on January 15th, where WPPA signed in pro. It is scheduled for an executive session on January 21st.

Supply Chain Competitiveness

[SB 5649/HB 1860](#) - Sen. Liias (D-21st, Edmonds), Rep. Reed (D-36th, Seattle)

This bill creates the Supply Chain Competitiveness Infrastructure Program, a grant and loan program overseen by WSDOT. This is a legislative priority for WPPA. In 2025, the bill passed the Senate but did not advance out of the House. The bill starts the year on the floor calendar in the Senate and WPPA has communicated with the sponsor, Senator Liias, who will continue advocating for its advancement.

***Freight Rail in Comprehensive Planning**

[SB 5820](#) – Sen. Cortes (D-18th, Battle Ground)

This bill revokes the authority for Clark County to incorporate the development of freight rail dependent uses on land adjacent to short line railroads in the transportation element of their comprehensive plan. WPPA is evaluating this bill for its potential impact on the Port of Vancouver, other Clark County ports, and freight mobility generally in the area. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Local Government Committee on January 19th and an executive session on January 22nd.

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