

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1422

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### As Passed Legislature

**Title:** An act relating to authorizing the department of natural resources to conduct a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project to facilitate Washington leading the nation in aviation biofuel production.

**Brief Description:** Authorizing a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications (originally sponsored by Representatives Stanford, Orcutt, Chandler, Warnick, Van De Wege, Green, Smith, Jacks, Blake, Sullivan, McCoy, Kretz, Tharinger, Ryu, Short, Sells, Lytton, Lias, Frockt, Moscoso, Billig, Probst, Rolfes, Dunshee, Maxwell, Upthegrove and Kenney; by request of Commissioner of Public Lands).

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Technology, Energy & Communications: 2/1/11, 2/8/11 [DPS].

#### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/22/11, 93-1.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 4/4/11, 47-0.

House Concurred.

Passed House: 4/13/11, 96-0.

Passed Legislature.

### Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 17 members: Representatives McCoy, Chair; Crouse, Ranking Minority Member; Short, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Billig, Carlyle, Dahlquist, Eddy, Frockt, Haler, Harris, Hasegawa, Jacks, Kelley, Lias, McCune and Morris.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Staff:** Scott Richards (786-7156).

## **Background:**

### State Trust Lands.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages 5.6 million acres of forest, range, agricultural, aquatic, and commercial lands for the people of Washington. The DNR manages approximately 2.3 million acres of forested state trust lands.

Under a mix of authorities, including state law, the state Constitution, and the state's federal Enabling Act, these state trust lands are held by the state for specified trust beneficiaries. In total, there are 18 trust beneficiaries that derive some level of economic benefit from the management of these trust lands. The beneficiaries include common schools, the state universities, community colleges, counties, and the state's capital budget.

### Biomass Energy Pilot Projects.

In 2009 the Legislature authorized the DNR to implement biomass energy pilot projects in eastern and western Washington. The purpose of the pilot projects are to demonstrate that removing biomass feedstock in ecologically sustainable ways to produce energy (liquid fuels or heat and electricity) may provide income for forest landowners while improving forest health; create rural jobs; reduce wildfires and greenhouse gas emissions; and aid in the production of renewable energy.

In January 2010 the following four biomass projects were selected:

- Parametrix (Bingen, Washington) is developing a transportable system that uses fast pyrolysis technology to rapidly convert forest biomass to liquid fuels and bio-char.
- Borgford Bioenergy, LLC. (Colville, Washington) is installing a slow pyrolysis system to generate bio-char, bio-oil, and syngas.
- Atlas Pellets (Omak, Washington) proposed to purchase, install, and operate off-the-shelf debarkers, grinders, and chippers to produce fuel pellets from forest biomass.
- Nippon Paper (Port Angeles, Washington) is replacing an existing oil-fired boiler with a high-efficiency biomass boiler and turbine-generator unit at its paper mill, and plans to sell electricity generated by the unit to an electric utility as a renewable energy resources.

### Long-term Biomass Supply Contracts.

In 2010 the Legislature authorized the DNR to enter into long-term contracts to supply forest biomass from DNR-managed lands. The DNR is authorized to: (1) conduct separate sales within valuable materials contracts; (2) enter into long-term competitive contracts of five years which may be renewed up to three times; (3) carry out direct sales contracts without public auction; (4) offer 15-year contracts for entities making a qualifying capital investment of \$50 million; and (5) lease state lands for the purpose of integrated biomass supply area and facility siting.

### Forest Biomass Supply Assessment.

Before entering into long-term contracts for forest biomass from state-managed lands, the DNR must first assess the available supply of biomass in the contract area. In 2010 the DNR

received a grant from the United States Forest Service to perform a statewide forest biomass supply assessment. The DNR selected the University of Washington's School of Forestry to conduct the assessment.

The Forest Biomass Supply Assessment will assess forest biomass availability and sustainability throughout Washington on all forest land ownerships, including state-owned lands. The forest biomass supply assessment will build on previous biomass supply analyses, refining and improving upon them by using finer-scale data and by evaluating individual land managers' objectives, operational and economic factors for biomass availability, and environmental sustainability. A range of supply estimates will be developed encompassing all forestland owners statewide, and will further break down these estimates within a series of logical supply tributary areas. The Forest Biomass Supply Assessment is scheduled for completion by August 2011.

Under current law, "forest biomass" means the by-products of prescribed or permitted forest management practices; forest protection treatments; or forest health treatments. "Forest biomass" does not include wood pieces that have been treated with chemical preservatives such as: creosote, pentachlorophenol, or copper-chrome-arsenic; wood from old growth forests, except wood removed for forest health treatments; or municipal solid waste.

#### **Summary of Substitute Bill:**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Commerce are directed to cooperate and consult with the University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University in their development of forest biomass to aviation fuel by:

- identifying opportunities for state lands to generate trust income for beneficiaries;
- identifying how to manage trust lands with potential for contributing to biomass to aviation fuel projects in a manner consistent with any findings by the UW concerning operationally and ecologically sustainable feedstock supply;
- identifying the most cost-effective, efficient, and ecologically sound techniques to deliver forest biomass from the forest to the production site;
- addressing and planning to ensure sustainability of forest biomass supply;
- exploring linkages with other biofuel efforts;
- identifying any barriers to developing aviation biofuel in Washington;
- entering into partnerships with research universities and the private sector to conduct a pilot project;
- collaborating with the federal government, other states, and Canadian provinces; and
- identifying and applying for funding sources.

The DNR must report to the Governor and the Legislature:

- by December 1, 2011, on activities pertaining to forest biomass to aviation fuel, including expenditures and revenue sources;
- by December 1, 2011, and December 1, 2012, a summary of research activities, scientific reports, and pilot projects pertaining to forest biomass to aviation fuel by state research institutions, including the status of ongoing activities and summaries of the findings with their implications for management of forest trust lands; and
- by December 1, 2011, and December 1, 2012, on the progress of the Forest Practices Board's Forest Biomass Policy Work Group consideration of the science, policy,

available technologies, and best management practices related to forest biomass harvest, including final recommendations to the Forest Practices Board.

A percentage of the income, proportionate to the percent of state resources, derived from the investment of state resources in the development of patents, copyrights, proprietary processes, or licenses developed by the forest biomass to aviation fuel demonstration project to be deposited in the State General Fund.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This bill pushes forward technologies for renewable sources of energy. Renewable energy resources are critical for our security in the long term. The bill will pull in investments and stimulate jobs in Washington. The bill provides the state with a unique opportunity to put rural Washingtonians back to work. The bill marries our state heritage in forest products with innovation in aviation, allows us to improve forest health, and helps us reduce our reliance on foreign oil. The bill allows us to put these forest biomass resources to their highest use. The bill helps address forest health and the danger of forest fires.

(In support with concerns) This bill would be improved with an amendment that would say that collection of biomass should avoid interfering with forest product production sites.

(With concerns) In our excitement with these new technologies, let us not overlook the need to be sustainable. We must make sure we are being careful and are using good conservation measures in creating this new fuel.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support) Representative Stanford, prime sponsor; Heath Packard and Rachael Jamison, Department of Natural Resources; Bill Stauffacher, Northwest Pulp and Paper Association; Stephen Bernath, Department of Ecology; and David Whipple, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(In support with concerns) Sean O'Sullivan, Association of Western Washington Paper Workers.

(With concerns) Miguel Perez-Gibson, Washington Environmental Council.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.