

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HJM 4023

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As of February 25, 2002

**Brief Description:** Supporting the development of an action plan for regional infrastructure security.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Morris, Barlean, Schual-Berke, Kessler, Conway, Schmidt, Lysen, Wood, Ballasiotes, O'Brien, Upthegrove, Edwards, Kenney, Anderson and Kagi.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Environment, Energy & Water: 2/28/02.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & WATER

**Staff:** Andrea McNamara (786-7483)

**Background:** In 1991, Washington agreed to participate in the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Agreement, a regional organization focused on promoting regional collaboration and enhancing regional competitiveness in international and domestic markets. Other PNWER members include Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon. The organization's structure consists of a delegate council and an executive committee. Legislators are appointed by participating states and provinces to serve on committees.

The PNWER also has working groups for various policy areas. Policy areas within PNWER's consideration include international trade, economic development, human resources, environment and natural resources, energy, and education. Substantive actions of PNWER may take the form of uniform legislation and other policy initiatives endorsed by participating entities.

In response to heightened interest in security issues, PNWER has initiated a multi-state, binational partnership for regional infrastructure security. The partnership brings together a multitude of public and private stakeholders to address infrastructure interdependencies and work toward an action plan for making the region "disaster resistant."

**Summary of Bill:** The Legislature expresses its support to the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the Federal Office of Homeland Security for a binational exercise in the Pacific Northwest to address infrastructure interdependencies in order to develop an action plan for regional infrastructure security. The Legislature supports this exercise being conducted under the auspices of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER).

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.