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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2326**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2002 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Linville, Romero, Lantz, Rockefeller, Cooper, Hunt, Simpson, Kagi and Ruderman)

Read first time 02/08/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington climate and rural energy  
2 development center; adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; and providing  
3 an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following  
6 findings:

7 (1) Enough is now known about the science and projected  
8 environmental impacts of climate change for the state to take actions  
9 to address its consequences.

10 (2) The state can and should take concrete steps to assess  
11 opportunities for emission reductions, establish and meet emission  
12 reduction objectives, and invest in new, more efficient products,  
13 practices, and technologies.

14 (3) The state can and should support the establishment of a central  
15 clearinghouse to serve as an impartial, unbiased source of credible and  
16 reliable information and services necessary to address the various  
17 aspects of this issue.

1 (4) The state should support the establishment of a central  
2 clearinghouse to serve as an impartial, unbiased source of credible and  
3 reliable information about climate change for the public.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply to  
5 this chapter only.

6 (1) "Center" means the Washington climate and rural energy  
7 development center.

8 (2) "Clean energy activities" means programs and industries  
9 promoting research, development, or commercialization of: (a)  
10 Qualified alternative energy resources, as that term is defined in RCW  
11 19.29A.090; (b) energy efficiency measures and technologies; and (c)  
12 technologies designed to significantly reduce the use of, or emissions  
13 from, motor vehicle fuels.

14 (3) "Climate change" means a change of climate attributed directly  
15 or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the  
16 global atmosphere.

17 (4) "Emissions" means the release of greenhouse gases.

18 (5) "Emitter" means the entity releasing greenhouse gases.

19 (6) "Greenhouse gases" includes carbon dioxide, methane and natural  
20 gas, and nitrous oxide.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The state legislature authorizes the  
22 establishment of the Washington climate and rural energy development  
23 center in the Washington State University energy program to serve as a  
24 central, impartial, nonregulatory, public source of credible and  
25 reliable information and services necessary to address the various  
26 aspects of climate change and clean energy activities.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center shall be funded through grants,  
28 voluntary monetary, in-kind contributions, and other sources.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The center, which is nonregulatory in  
30 nature, may, conditioned on the availability of sufficient funding:

31 (a) Identify key sectors within the state likely to be affected  
32 adversely by climate change;

33 (b) Examine and report the feasibility of a carbon storage program  
34 for the state by:

1 (i) Evaluating other states' and nations' attempts to establish  
2 carbon credit programs, carbon storage programs, carbon storage  
3 requirements worldwide, and methods and scientific programs that are  
4 used to implement carbon storage programs;

5 (ii) Analyzing other programs in the state of Washington, including  
6 the conservation reserve enhancement program, that could facilitate a  
7 carbon storage program and a stable carbon storage market; and

8 (iii) Analyzing methods to encourage and increase appropriate  
9 carbon storage activities;

10 (c) Determine current and projected emissions of greenhouse gases  
11 in the state;

12 (d) Collect and share scientific and technological data related to  
13 climate change;

14 (e) Collect and share information about clean energy activities in  
15 the rural areas of the state, including information about state  
16 resources available for developing such clean energy opportunities;

17 (f) Compile or make available prospective commercial opportunities;

18 (g) Make itself available to evaluate, consult, monitor, or verify  
19 mitigation projects;

20 (h) Make itself available to support the commercial exchange of any  
21 credits from mitigation or other related efforts;

22 (i) Assist with any future planning to deal with the potential  
23 effects of any changes in the climate that may occur;

24 (j) Accomplish any other duty assigned to it by the legislature for  
25 which adequate funding is provided;

26 (k) Provide a biennial report to the governor and the appropriate  
27 legislative committees by December 31st of every even-numbered year  
28 regarding its operations, including the status of greenhouse gas  
29 reductions in the state; and

30 (l) Study and make recommendations to the appropriate legislative  
31 committees on the potential:

32 (i) Impacts of climate change in the state; and

33 (ii) Effects of early action by the state, before action is taken  
34 by the federal government, on Washington's competitive position with  
35 respect to other states.

36 (2) The following agencies and programs will work with the center  
37 to assist with the duties listed under this section: The department of  
38 community, trade, and economic development, the department of ecology,  
39 the department of transportation, the department of health, the

1 department of fish and wildlife, the department of agriculture, the  
2 department of natural resources, and the Washington State University  
3 energy program.

4 (3) The legislature may appoint one member from each legislative  
5 caucus to serve on a legislative oversight committee for the center.

6 (4) The center must establish task forces and technical advisory  
7 committees, balanced in representation and consisting of any interested  
8 elected leaders, state and local agencies, businesses, labor groups,  
9 timber industry groups, agricultural groups, nonprofit organizations,  
10 university and college programs, industrial emitters of greenhouse  
11 gases, and citizens, as necessary to assist in the duties in this  
12 section.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The center shall publicize mitigation  
14 projects and efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect July 1, 2002.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute  
17 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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