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**SENATE BILL 6114**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Regala, Jacobsen, Swecker, Fraser, McDonald, Oke and Kline

Read first time 02/22/2001. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting voluntary watershed and natural  
2 resource organizations; adding a new section to chapter 90.54 RCW;  
3 creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that each watershed in  
6 Washington is unique and requires its own management activities and  
7 techniques to protect and enhance the quality and stability of the  
8 watershed for the benefit of communities and residents. Such  
9 activities and techniques are most effective and efficient when they  
10 fully integrate and utilize the collaborative efforts of interested  
11 citizens and businesses, nonprofit organizations, tribes, local, state,  
12 and federal agencies, and state colleges and universities. Voluntary  
13 nonprofit organizations whose mission is the protection, enhancement,  
14 and restoration of the state's watersheds and natural resources perform  
15 an important public service, not only through the projects they  
16 implement, but by helping to educate citizens about the significance of  
17 these activities and providing a way for citizens to become involved.  
18 The skills, community support, volunteer labor, and donations of goods  
19 and services that they generate substantially advance protection,

1 enhancement, and restoration of watersheds and natural resources.  
2 Among a large number of other worthy organizations, over two hundred  
3 coordinated resource management groups in the state have improved  
4 management of natural resources in their local areas through  
5 collaborative efforts, in some cases for twenty years. With continuing  
6 population growth and pressure on resources, the need for such programs  
7 is growing and exceeding the ability of such organizations to meet the  
8 need without a source of administrative support.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 90.54 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) It is the policy of the state of Washington to encourage and  
12 help sustain voluntary nonprofit organizations formed for the purpose  
13 of protecting, enhancing, and restoring the biological, chemical, and  
14 physical processes of watersheds, and to direct state agencies and  
15 state colleges and universities to coordinate their respective  
16 activities relating to these purposes with other state entities and  
17 affected local, regional, tribal, federal government, and private  
18 nonprofit organizations and to cooperate with and foster such  
19 activities to the greatest degree practicable.

20 (2) Private nonprofit organizations incorporated under Title 24 RCW  
21 for the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring the biological,  
22 chemical, and physical processes of watersheds, in cooperation with  
23 interested citizens and businesses, other nonprofit organizations,  
24 tribes, and local, state, and federal entities, may apply to the  
25 department for administrative support grants of up to fifty thousand  
26 dollars to maintain the organizational structure and functions  
27 necessary to fulfill their purpose. Administrative support grants may  
28 be used to compensate full or part-time staff, such as a director,  
29 project manager, or volunteer coordinator, and for obtaining grants and  
30 matching funds and in-kind donations and services, for recruiting  
31 volunteers, for providing technical and safety training, safety  
32 equipment, and insurance, and for maintaining required records and  
33 issuing required reports, and the like. Administrative support grants  
34 may be renewed annually. In addition to any other relevant  
35 requirements established by the department, applications for  
36 administrative support grants shall include a work plan for expenditure  
37 of the grant funds, a description of the planned activities for which  
38 the grant funds will provide administrative support, performance

1 measures, and documentation of community involvement. Preference will  
2 be given to organizations that have completed projects successfully,  
3 have projects pending, and have established cooperative relationships  
4 with citizens, businesses, nonprofit organizations, tribes, local,  
5 state, and federal agencies, and state colleges and universities, as  
6 appropriate for the nature and scope of their activities. The  
7 department shall provide administrative support grants from and to the  
8 extent of appropriations made by the legislature to the department  
9 expressly for this purpose.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of two million dollars, or as much  
11 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund to  
12 the department of ecology for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, to  
13 carry out the purposes of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
15 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
16 June 30, 2001, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
17 void.

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