

VETO MESSAGE ON HB 2172-S

May 11, 2001

To the Honorable Speakers and Members,

The House of Representatives of the State of Washington
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to section 4, Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2172 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to the repair and maintenance of backflow prevention assemblies;"

Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2172 creates a specialty plumber's certificate of competency for the maintenance and repair of backflow prevention assemblies. This bill will make it easier and more cost effective to conduct annual inspections of backflow prevention assemblies by increasing the number of available inspectors.

Section 4 of the bill would have repealed the requirement that backflow prevention devices in residential dwellings be annually inspected. Such action would compromise the health and safety of Washington residents and the integrity of our state's potable water. Without a state inspection requirement, local governments would likely impose their own requirements, resulting in a multitude of differing standards.

For these reasons I have vetoed section 4 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2172.

With the exception of section 4, Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2172 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Locke
Governor