
SENATE BILL 5561

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time 01/31/11. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to designating the state rock; adding a new section
2 to chapter 1.20 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Tenino quarry
5 sandstone has both historic and contemporary significance for the state
6 of Washington. Prospectors discovered sandstone in Tenino, Washington
7 in 1870. In 1889, Samuel W. Fenton and George Van Tine opened Tenino's
8 first sandstone quarry. The 1889 historic fire in Seattle created the
9 opportunity for Tenino sandstone to be used on a more regular basis for
10 construction of buildings throughout the Pacific Northwest. By the
11 early 1900's, Tenino was the region's most important source of the
12 versatile stone. Tenino sandstone is included in the east wing of the
13 Washington state capitol, the original main branch of the Seattle
14 public library, the Bailey building in Seattle, the Northern Pacific
15 Railway station in Missoula, Montana, the Calvary Presbyterian church
16 in San Francisco, California, and the main high school in Stockton,
17 California. Tenino sandstone is a structural component of the
18 Philadelphia Freedom Monument and represents Washington state in the

1 Washington Monument in Washington D.C. The Tenino quarry is still
2 active today.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 1.20 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Tenino sandstone is hereby designated as the official rock of the
6 state of Washington.

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