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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1113**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** House Environment & Energy (originally sponsored by Representatives Slatter, Fitzgibbon, Fey, Doglio, Kloba, Peterson, Valdez, Ryu, Tharinger, Jenkins, Macri, Goodman, Cody, Bergquist, Pollet, Stanford, Santos, Frame, Ormsby, Walen, and Robinson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to amending state greenhouse gas emission limits  
2 for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change  
3 science and with the United States' commitment under the 2015 Paris  
4 climate agreement; amending RCW 70.235.020; and creating a new  
5 section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Global climate change is a real and  
8 urgent problem caused by human activities. The state of Washington  
9 and other states have been and will continue to be negatively  
10 impacted by the effects of climate change, including reduced winter  
11 snowpack, drought, more frequent extreme weather events, increased  
12 frequencies of forest fires and insect infestations, and acidifying  
13 oceans that harm shellfish and otherwise disrupt marine ecosystem  
14 viability. Although actions by individuals, local governments,  
15 environmentally minded businesses, and states are necessary and  
16 important, climate change is nevertheless fundamentally a problem of  
17 global scope.

18 (a) The trend of Washington's total annual greenhouse gas  
19 emissions over time reflects the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse  
20 gas emissions. In 1990, Washington's total annual greenhouse gas  
21 emissions were approximately 88.4 million metric tons of carbon

1 dioxide equivalent. In 2007, Washington's total annual greenhouse gas  
2 emissions were approximately 101.6 million metric tons of carbon  
3 dioxide equivalent. In 2008, Washington enacted legislation to reduce  
4 greenhouse gas emissions in the state to 1990 levels by 2025, to  
5 twenty-five percent below 1990 levels by 2035, and to fifty percent  
6 below 1990 levels by 2050. In 2013, the most recent year for which  
7 records are available, Washington's total annual greenhouse gas  
8 emissions were approximately 94.4 million metric tons of carbon  
9 dioxide equivalent. In 2016, the department of ecology, based on a  
10 report from the climate impacts group at the University of  
11 Washington, recommended that the state further reduce its greenhouse  
12 gas emissions to forty percent below 1990 levels by 2035 and to  
13 eighty percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

14 (b) The United States has also taken certain actions at the  
15 national and international scale to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.  
16 At the national level, these actions include increasing national fuel  
17 efficiency standards for cars and light trucks and requiring all  
18 states to develop plans under the federal clean air act to achieve  
19 measurable greenhouse gas emissions reductions. At the international  
20 level, these actions include entering into an accord with China that  
21 commits both nations to measurable reductions of their greenhouse gas  
22 emissions, and signing on to the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

23 (c) The Paris climate agreement is an international agreement  
24 within the United Nations framework convention on climate change.  
25 Under the Paris climate agreement, each participating nation  
26 determines the contribution, known as the intended nationally  
27 determined contribution, that it will make toward a global reduction  
28 in greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris climate agreement also  
29 contains a mechanism for developed countries to fund climate change  
30 adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. A total of one  
31 hundred ninety-five nations have signed the Paris climate agreement.

32 (d) The United States signed the Paris climate agreement on April  
33 22, 2016. Under the intended nationally determined contribution that  
34 the United States submitted to the United Nations, the United States  
35 committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to twenty-six percent  
36 below 2005 levels by 2025, and to making best efforts to reduce  
37 greenhouse gas emissions to twenty-eight percent below 2005 levels.  
38 Translated from a 2005 baseline year to a 1990 baseline year, those  
39 greenhouse gas emissions reductions equate to nineteen percent and  
40 twenty-one percent reductions, respectively, below 1990 levels.

1 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to declare that,  
2 notwithstanding the June 1, 2017, announcement that the United States  
3 would withdraw from the 2015 Paris climate agreement, Washington  
4 state intends to fulfill its portion of the United States' commitment  
5 under the 2015 Paris climate agreement by reducing its greenhouse gas  
6 emissions at a rate that is consistent with the intended nationally  
7 determined contribution submitted by the United States to the United  
8 Nations.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.235.020 and 2008 c 14 s 3 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1)(a) The state shall limit emissions of greenhouse gases to  
12 achieve the following emission reductions for Washington state:

13 (i) By 2020, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the  
14 state to 1990 levels;

15 (ii) By 2025, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to nineteen percent  
16 below 1990 levels, and to make best efforts to reduce greenhouse gas  
17 emissions to twenty-one percent below 1990 levels, consistent with  
18 the commitment submitted to the United Nations as the intended  
19 nationally determined contribution by the United States under the  
20 2015 Paris climate agreement;

21 (iii) By 2035, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in  
22 the state to ~~((twenty-five))~~ forty percent below 1990 levels;

23 ~~((iii))~~ (iv) By 2050, the state will do its part to reach  
24 global climate stabilization levels by reducing overall emissions to  
25 ~~((fifty))~~ eighty percent below 1990 levels ~~((, or seventy percent~~  
26 ~~below the state's expected emissions that year))~~.

27 (b) By December 1, 2008, the department shall submit a greenhouse  
28 gas reduction plan for review and approval to the legislature,  
29 describing those actions necessary to achieve the emission reductions  
30 in (a) of this subsection by using existing statutory authority and  
31 any additional authority granted by the legislature. Actions taken  
32 using existing statutory authority may proceed prior to approval of  
33 the greenhouse gas reduction plan.

34 (c) Except where explicitly stated otherwise, nothing in chapter  
35 14, Laws of 2008 limits any state agency authorities as they existed  
36 prior to June 12, 2008.

37 (d) Consistent with this directive, the department shall take the  
38 following actions:

1 (i) Develop and implement a system for monitoring and reporting  
2 emissions of greenhouse gases as required under RCW 70.94.151; and

3 (ii) Track progress toward meeting the emission reductions  
4 established in this subsection, including the results from policies  
5 currently in effect that have been previously adopted by the state  
6 and policies adopted in the future, and report on that progress.

7 (2) By December 31st of each even-numbered year beginning in  
8 2010, the department and the department of (~~community, trade, and~~  
9 ~~economic development~~) commerce shall report to the governor and the  
10 appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives the  
11 total emissions of greenhouse gases for the preceding two years, and  
12 totals in each major source sector. The department shall ensure the  
13 reporting rules adopted under RCW 70.94.151 allow it to develop a  
14 comprehensive inventory of emissions of greenhouse gases from all  
15 significant sectors of the Washington economy. The reporting rules  
16 must allow for the reporting of carbon sequestration associated with  
17 urban forestry practices. The report must describe Washington's per  
18 capita and total greenhouse gas emissions as compared to the per  
19 capita and total greenhouse gas emissions of the other states in the  
20 United States, including Washington's ranking among the other states  
21 as an emitter of greenhouse gases on both a per capita and total  
22 emissions basis.

23 (3) Except for purposes of reporting, emissions of carbon dioxide  
24 from industrial combustion of biomass in the form of fuel wood, wood  
25 waste, wood by-products, and wood residuals shall not be considered a  
26 greenhouse gas as long as the region's silvicultural sequestration  
27 capacity is maintained or increased.

28 (4)(a) Washington's public and private working forests are an  
29 integral component to the state's climate response and efforts to  
30 mitigate carbon emissions. Satisfying the goals set forth in this  
31 section will require supporting, throughout all of state government,  
32 the economic vitality of working forests of all sizes, ownerships,  
33 and management objectives, and the wood products they produce, to  
34 ensure they avoid deforestation and remain on the landscape in the  
35 face of unprecedented conversion pressures. Doing so allows  
36 forestland owners to continue the rotational cycle of carbon  
37 sequestration in growing trees and storage in the allied wood  
38 products industries; naturally mitigating a significant percentage of  
39 the state's carbon emissions while providing other environmental  
40 benefits and supporting a strong rural economic base. Policies that

1 support working forests also allow Washington to have participants in  
2 current and future vibrant private carbon transaction markets,  
3 positioning the state as a valuable contributor to the global carbon  
4 response while supporting one of its largest manufacturing sectors.

5 (b) For the purposes of this chapter, the department must, in  
6 coordination with the department of natural resources, calculate and  
7 include in its reporting the total emissions of greenhouse gases from  
8 wildfires in the state. As part of the reductions identified in this  
9 chapter, the state must encourage proactive forest management,  
10 including, but not limited to, prescribed burning and mechanized  
11 thinning, as a means of achieving the state's greenhouse gas  
12 emissions reduction goals. The report must also address the  
13 greenhouse gas emission reductions and carbon sequestration increases  
14 associated with proactive forest management practices, including  
15 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning.

16 (5) The joint legislative audit and review committee must prepare  
17 and submit to the legislature by June 30, 2020, and every five years  
18 thereafter, an analysis of the economic impact, whether positive or  
19 negative, and the impact on jobs, whether positive or negative,  
20 resulting from the greenhouse gas emissions reductions specified in  
21 this section.

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