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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8419**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1994 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development  
(originally sponsored by Senators Skratek, Sheldon and M. Rasmussen)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1       WHEREAS, The international community, through the World Commission  
2 on the Environment and Development established by the United Nations,  
3 has recognized that environmental problems are inseparable from those  
4 of human welfare and from the process of economic development in  
5 general and that many present forms of development erode the  
6 environmental resources on which human livelihoods and welfare  
7 ultimately depend; and

8       WHEREAS, The United Nations and the United States government are  
9 considering further actions to agreements reached by the international  
10 community regarding sustainable development, including the  
11 establishment of a new United Nations Commission on Sustainable  
12 Development; and

13       WHEREAS, Many nations and other states, including Austria, Canada,  
14 Holland, New Zealand, Norway, Florida, Minnesota, and Vermont are  
15 developing sustainable development plans to properly preserve and  
16 protect treasured natural resources and environmental quality while  
17 benefiting their economies; and

18       WHEREAS, Sustainable development involves promoting human well-  
19 being and meeting critical economic needs that maintain and improve the  
20 lives of humanity while ensuring: Protection of our environment and  
21 natural resources for use by future generations; managing renewable

1 resources so that their quality and quantity are preserved or enhanced;  
2 managing the developed environment in a manner that reduces wasteful  
3 levels of energy consumption and other natural resources; conserving  
4 the biodiversity of species by slowing, and, if possible, halting the  
5 extinctions of habitat and ecosystems; and avoiding, remediating, or  
6 mitigating, to the greatest extent practicable, the adverse effects on  
7 the environment of use and development; and

8 WHEREAS, Government policies and actions aimed at protecting the  
9 environment and promoting economic development often work towards  
10 accomplishing neither; and

11 WHEREAS, Washington's regulatory environment should operate to  
12 achieve the goal of ensuring business practices and economic vitality  
13 equate with maintaining and improving environmental quality, by  
14 adopting environmental preservation and protection statutes and  
15 regulations consistent and necessary to serve that public purpose; and

16 WHEREAS, The business community needs a stable framework of  
17 economic and environmental statutes and regulations to be able to make  
18 long-range plans and to invest in the best available technology so that  
19 the state can exercise wise and responsible stewardship to maximize  
20 both environmental quality and economic productivity; and

21 WHEREAS, It is essential that the state ensure people can safely  
22 breathe the air and drink the water, that children can play without  
23 fear of exposure to toxic contaminants, that treasured natural and  
24 cultural resources enjoy protection and preservation for all to  
25 appreciate, and that those who make their livelihood from fishing,  
26 tourism, and other natural resource-related endeavors may continue to  
27 do so;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of  
29 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That the  
30 legislature of the state of Washington encourage cooperative  
31 international and national efforts to promote sustainable development  
32 by developing a sustainable development plan that reflects the sense of  
33 this resolution; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the executive-legislative committee on  
35 economic development policy establish a subcommittee on sustainable  
36 development that will:

37 (1) Define sustainable development;

38 (2) Study and analyze models of sustainable development locally and  
39 in other states and nations;

1       (3) Identify existing programs within the state which follow the  
2 precepts of sustainable development;

3       (4) In cooperation with department of community, trade, and  
4 economic development and department of ecology personnel, develop a  
5 comprehensive framework for sustainable development for the state that  
6 identifies:

7       (a) Principles of sustainable development;

8       (b) Environmental quality objectives;

9       (c) Economic and environmental sustainability indicators;

10       (d) Opportunities for integration of sustainability considerations  
11 in economic and community development programs and local or regional  
12 planning processes;

13       (e) Mechanisms for public and private partnerships and  
14 intergovernmental cooperation;

15       (f) Mechanisms for local community processes by which local  
16 governments, the private sector, and community groups can develop local  
17 sustainable development plans; and

18       (g) Financial or market-based incentives to encourage innovations  
19 by businesses which will further sustainability;

20       (5) Identify opportunities to promote sustainable development  
21 through regional organizations; and

22       (6) Make recommendations regarding executive and legislative action  
23 necessary to develop and implement a sustainable development plan for  
24 the state.

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