

VETO MESSAGE ON E2SHB 2061

April 1, 2016

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Engrossed
Second Substitute House Bill No. 2061 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to authorizing county legislative
authorities to approve certain group B water
systems based upon their delivery of water meeting
safe drinking water standards."

This bill would remove public health standards for small
drinking water systems and eliminate local health
professionals from the approval process. Moving the authority
for these smaller systems away from these partners erodes
their ability to prevent and respond to waterborne illness in
their communities.

We have a strong process in place to ensure that safe and
reliable drinking water is provided for all Washington
communities. We also understand that smaller systems need
flexibility and a reasonable path to get their systems
approved. Therefore, I am directing the Department of Health
to work with the four counties identified in this bill in
developing local programs to provide that flexibility without
sacrificing public health protection.

For these reasons I have vetoed Engrossed Second Substitute
House Bill No. 2061 in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Inslee
Governor