CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1711**

Chapter 355, Laws of 2023

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS—SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION—CERTAIN TRIBES

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

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| Passed by the House April 20, 2023  Yeas 96 Nays 0  LAURIE JINKINS  **Speaker of the House of Representatives**  Passed by the Senate April 19, 2023  Yeas 48 Nays 0  DENNY HECK  **President of the Senate** | CERTIFICATE  I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1711** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.  BERNARD DEAN  Chief Clerk |
| Approved May 9, 2023 10:53 AM | May 10, 2023 |
| JAY INSLEE  **Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State**  **State of Washington** |

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1711**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives Chapman, Tharinger, Lekanoff, Ryu, Callan, Reed, Volz, Kloba, Stearns, Stokesbary, and Santos)

AN ACT Relating to providing a sales and use tax exemption related to internet and telecommunications infrastructure projects involving a federally recognized Indian tribe; adding new sections to chapter 82.08 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.12 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; providing expiration dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 82.08 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Subject to the requirements of this section, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of, or charges made for:

(a) Labor and services rendered in respect to the construction of a qualified infrastructure project, or the installation of any equipment or tangible personal property incorporated into a qualified infrastructure project; and

(b) Building materials, telecommunications equipment, and tangible personal property incorporated into a qualified infrastructure project.

(2) The exemption provided in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to local sales taxes.

(3)(a) In order to obtain an exemption certificate under this section, a qualified infrastructure project owner must submit an application to the department for an exemption certificate. The application must include the information necessary, as required by the department, to determine that the qualified infrastructure project owner qualifies for the exemption under this section. The department must issue an exemption certificate to a qualified infrastructure project owner.

(b) In order to claim an exemption under this section, a qualified infrastructure project owner must provide the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(c) The exemption certificate is effective on the date the application is received by the department, which is the date of issuance. The exemption provided in this section does not apply to any property or services that are received by the qualified infrastructure project owner, or its agent, before the effective date of this section or on or after January 1, 2030. For the purpose of this subsection (3)(c), "received" means:

(i) Taking physical possession of, or having dominion and control over, the tangible personal property eligible for the exemption in subsection (1)(b) of this section; and

(ii) The labor and services in subsection (1)(a) of this section have been performed.

(d) The exemption certificate expires on the date the project is certified as operationally complete by the qualified infrastructure project owner or January 1, 2030, whichever is first. The qualified infrastructure project owner must notify the department, in a form and manner as required by the department, when the project is certified as operationally complete.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Local sales tax" means a sales tax imposed by a local government under the authority of chapter 82.14 or 81.104 RCW.

(b) "Operationally complete" means the qualified infrastructure project is capable of being used for its intended purpose as described in the exemption certificate application.

(c) "Qualified infrastructure project" means the construction of buildings and utilities related to the deployment of a modern global internet and telecommunications infrastructure that occurs in part in a distressed area, as defined in RCW 43.168.020, that is located on the coast of Washington. The infrastructure may include, but is not limited to, cable landing stations, communications hubs, buried utility connections and extension, and any related equipment and buildings that will add broadband capacity and infrastructure to the area.

(d) "Qualified infrastructure project owner" means a wholly owned subsidiary of a federally recognized tribe located in a county that borders the Pacific Ocean that is developing a qualified infrastructure project.

(5) The total amount of state sales and use tax exempted under this section and section 2 of this act may not exceed $8,000,000. A qualified infrastructure project owner within 60 days of the expiration of the exemption certificate under subsection (3)(d) of this section must pay any tax due under this subsection. The department may not assess penalties and interest as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW on the amount due if the amount due is paid within the 60-day period, or any extension thereof. The department may require a qualified infrastructure project owner to periodically submit documentation, as specified by the department, prior to the expiration of the exemption certificate to allow the department to track the total amount of sales and use tax exempted under this section and section 2 of this act.

(6) This section expires January 1, 2030.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 82.12 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Provided an exemption certificate has been issued pursuant to section 1 of this act, the provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of:

(a) Labor and services rendered in respect to the installation of any equipment or other tangible personal property incorporated into a qualified infrastructure project; and

(b) Building materials, telecommunications equipment, and tangible personal property incorporated into a qualified infrastructure project.

(2) The exemption provided in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to local use taxes.

(3) All of the eligibility requirements, conditions, limitations, and definitions in section 1 of this act apply to this section.

(4) For purposes of this section, "local use tax" means a use tax imposed by a local government under the authority of chapter 82.14 or 81.104 RCW.

(5) This section expires January 1, 2030.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 82.08 RCW to read as follows:

(1) In order to obtain the exemption provided in this act, a qualified infrastructure project owner must certify to the department of labor and industries that the work performed on the qualified infrastructure project by the prime contractor and its subcontractors was performed under the terms of a community workforce agreement or project labor agreement negotiated prior to the start of the qualified infrastructure project. The agreements must include worker compensation requirements consistent with the payment of area standard prevailing wages in accordance with chapter 39.12 RCW, apprenticeship utilization requirements, and tribal employment and contracting opportunities, provided the following:

(a) The owner and the prime contractor and all of its subcontractors regardless of tier have the absolute right to select any qualified and responsible bidder for the award of contracts on a specified project without reference to the existence or nonexistence of any agreements between such bidder and any party to such project labor agreement, and only when such bidder is willing, ready, and able to become a party to, signs a letter of assent, and complies with such agreement or agreements, should it be designated the successful bidder; and

(b) It is understood that this is a self-contained, stand-alone agreement, and that by virtue of having become bound to such agreement or agreements, neither the project contractor nor the subcontractors are obligated to sign any other local, area, or national agreement.

(2) This section expires January 1, 2030.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  RCW 82.32.808 does not apply to this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2023.

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Passed by the House April 20, 2023.

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2023.

Approved by the Governor May 9, 2023.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 10, 2023.