



LegisLetter

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2011 Vote Record

The 2011 regular and first special legislative sessions were finally completed in late May. It took 135 days to do the “work” of the people this year, and the results were amazingly good. We entered the session with a budget hole of about \$5 billion dollars, tighter majorities in each house, and a renewal of a two-thirds vote to raise taxes (Initiative 1053). The first weeks of session were dark days. Majority party members introduced all sorts of “fee bills” and indicated they would slash funding for natural resources agencies (chiefly the Department of Agriculture and the Conservation Commission).

In the end, however, we saw small cuts to natural resources agencies and virtually no fee bills passing. Farmers fared much better than it appeared they would based on how the session began. We entered session believing that we would have to play defense, similar to the 2010 session. Instead, we accomplished some small wins, set the stage for more in the future, and contained the zeal to raise fees.

This vote record attempts to inform Farm Bureau members about how their legislators voted on the issues most important to our state’s farm and ranch families. A legislator received 10 points for each correct vote cast.

It must be noted that many bills of importance to Washington agriculture never made it to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote. In many cases, the Legislature avoided controversial issues. In other cases, your Farm Bureau lobby team was successful in defeating harmful legislation at the committee level, and, in some instances, legislation Farm Bureau supported did not advance from committee.

We hope this vote record will assist our members in opening a dialogue with elected officials and in fostering a working relationship with them.

Following is a brief summary of the bills included in the vote record.

HB 1169 – English Holly

This bill was the Legislature’s response to an effort by the state Noxious Weed Control Board to list English holly, used in Christmas floral arrangements, as a noxious weed. The bill requires the board to

adopt new scientific data and economic analysis before reconsidering a plant, such as English holly, for listing. We supported this bill, which passed the House 90-7-0-1 and the Senate 45-3-1-0.

HB 1306 – Extension of Agribusiness CDL Exemption

This measure removed the expiration date from existing law, allowing an exemption from certain commercial driver license requirements to continue for agribusiness purposes. This bill benefits private carriers who primarily transport farm machinery, seeds, feed, fertilizers, and pesticides. The bill, which we supported, passed the Senate 48-0-1-0 and the House 96-0-0-1.

HB 1487 – Workers’ Comp Retro Claims Management Tools

This bill would have established a voluntary, five-year program to grant retrospective rating programs more flexibility and authority to manage claims. Programs would have been given authority to schedule independent medical exams and vocational assessments and close certain claims. We supported these concepts, and the bill passed the House 70-27-0-1 but failed to reach a vote in the Senate.

HB 1886 – Ruckelshaus Program

HB 1886 created an optional voluntary stewardship program to address critical areas and agricultural activities under the state Growth Management Act. If a county opts in, existing agricultural activities are protected from further regulation and voluntary programs will be created by local stakeholder groups. WFB helped negotiate the bill and strongly supported passage. It passed the Senate 48-1 and the House 92-5-0-1.

HB 2123 – Final Workers’ Comp Compromise

This bill made the first substantial changes to our state’s workers’ comp system in three decades. It allowed injured workers ages 55 and older to voluntarily settle their time-loss claims, and it established the Stay-at-Work program to provide employers with incentives to hire injured workers back to work. It includes other cost-savings provisions which, when combined with other changes, are estimated to save the workers’ comp system more than \$1 billion by 2016. Farm Bureau supported this compromise bill, which passed the House 69-26-0-3 and the Senate 35-12-0-2.

HCR 4404 – Health Reform Implementation

This bill extended the Joint Select Committee on Health Care Reform for another year. This bipartisan committee will be making decisions on the implementation of Obamacare in Washington state, most notably the state exchange. Farm Bureau supported the bill, which passed the Senate 47-1-0-1 and the House 90-5-0-3.

SB 5135 – Unemployment Insurance Tax Adjustment

This measure imposed a temporary, one-year cap on the unemployment insurance social tax rate, immediately lowering exceptionally high UI taxes on employers this year. We strongly supported this bill, which passed the Senate 46-1-0-1 and the House 98-0.

SB 5359 – Contiguous Land in Open Space

This bill allows for contiguous parcels of property held in different names, but by the same farm operation, to be considered contiguous for the purpose of open space taxation. Farm Bureau strongly supported the bill, which passed the Senate 49-0 and the House 91-0-1-5.

SB 5487 – Egg Bill

SB 5487 creates a reasonable timeline, supported by Washington egg producers, to transition to enriched-colony or cage-free production. Production must also meet United Egg Producer standards for space, health, protection from predators, etc. This bill is a reasonable alternative to Initiative 1130, which could drive some producers out of business. WFB supported this measure. It passed the House 70-27 and the Senate 32-14-1-2.

SB 5555 – Water Rights Transfer (John Day pool is a pool)

This measure will allow water right holders within the John Day pool of the Columbia River to change the point of diversion to another point within the pool. Current law did not allow such a transfer to occur. This change will specifically benefit the Department of Natural Resources and a number of farmers who need to change a diversion point to enable the irrigation of significant acres of land in that area. WFB strongly supported the bill. The measure passed the Senate 48-0-0-1 and the House 93-0-0-4.

SB 5566 – Original Senate Workers’ Comp Package

This bipartisan Senate compromise would have allowed injured workers to voluntarily negotiate lump-sum settlements in exchange for settling their time-loss claims. It would also have established the Stay-at-Work program to provide employers with incentives to hire injured workers back to work. Farm Bureau strongly supported this measure, which passed the Senate 34-15 before failing to receive a vote in the House.

Legend

✓ = Correct Vote

✗ = Incorrect Vote

● = Absent/Excused

Washington State Senate

Name, Party & District	SHB 1169	HB 1306	ESHB 1886	EHB 2123	ESHCR 4404	SB 5135	SSB 5359	SB 5487	SB 5555	SB 5566	Percentage
Farm Bureau Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Baumgartner, Michael (R-6)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Baxter, Jeff (R-4)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Becker, Randi (R-2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Benton, Don (R-17)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Brown, Lisa (D-3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✗	✓	✓	88%
Carrell, Mike (R-28)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Chase, Maralyn (D-32)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	70%
Conway, Steve (D-26)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	80%
Delvin, Jerome (R-8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	99%
Eide, Tracey (D-30)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	90%
Ericksen, Doug (R-42)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Fain, Joe (R-47)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Fraser, Karen (D-22)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	70%
Hargrove, Jim (D-24)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Harper, Nick (D-38)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	80%
Hatfield, Brian (D-19)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Haugen, Mary Margaret (D-10)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hewitt, Mike (R-16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hill, Andy (R-45)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	●	✓	88%
Hobbs, Steve (D-44)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Holmquist Newbry, Janéa (R-13)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	90%
Honeyford, Jim (R-15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kastama, Jim (D-25)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Keiser, Karen (D-33)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	70%

Kilmer, Derek (D-26)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
King, Curtis (R-14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kline, Adam (D-37)	✓	●	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	66%
Kohl-Welles, Jeanne (D-36)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	80%
Litzow, Steve (R-41)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McAuliffe, Rosemary (D-1)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	70%
Morton, Bob (R-7)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Murray, Ed (D-43)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✗	77%
Nelson, Sharon (D-34)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	50%
Parlette, Linda Evans (R-12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	99%
Pflug, Cheryl (R-5)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Prentice, Margarita (D-11)	✗	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✗	73%
Pridemore, Craig (D-49)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ranker, Kevin (D-40)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	70%
Regala, Debbie (D-27)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	70%
Roach, Pam (R-31)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rockefeller, Phil (D-23)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Schoesler, Mark (R-9)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sheldon, Tim (D-35)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Shin, Paull (D-21)	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	99%
Stevens, Val (R-39)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Swecker, Dan (R-20)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Tom, Rodney (D-48)	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	88%
White, Scott (D-46)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	70%
Zarelli, Joseph (R-18)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

① Sen. Baxter replaced Sen. McCaslin mid-session.

Haigh, Kathy (D-35)	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	99%
Haler, Larry (R-8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hargrove, Mark (R-47)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	90%
Harris, Paul (R-17)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Hasegawa, Bob (D-11)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Hinkle, Bill (R-13)	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	99%
Hope, Mike (R-44)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hudgins, Zack (D-11)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	80%
Hunt, Sam (D-22)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	70%
Hunter, Ross (D-48)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	90%
Hurst, Christopher (D-31)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	99%
Jacks, Jim (D-49)	✓	2	✓	2	2	2	✓	2	2	2	100%
Jenkins, Laurie (D-27)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Johnson, Norm (R-14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kagi, Ruth (D-32)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	90%
Kelley, Troy (D-28)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kenney, Phyllis (D-46)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	70%
Kirby, Steve (D-29)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Klippert, Brad (R-8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kretz, Joel (R-7)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kristiansen, Dan (R-39)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ladenburg, Connie (D-29)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Liias, Marko (D-21)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	●	✗	✓	66%
Lytton, Kristin (D-21)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Maxwell, Marcie (D-41)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McCoy, John (D-38)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
McCune, Jim (R-2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%
Miloscia, Mark (D-30)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Moeller, Jim (D-49)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Morris, Jeff (D-40)	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	99%
Moscoso, Luis (D-1)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Nealey, Terry (R-16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Orcutt, Ed (R-18)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Ormsby, Timm (D-3)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Orwall, Tina (D-33)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	●	✓	✓	✗	✓	77%
Overstreet, Jason (R-42)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	●	✗	✓	77%
Parker, Kevin (R-6)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%

Pearson, Kirk (R-39)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Pedersen, Jamie (D-43)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	90%
Pettigrew, Eric (D-37)	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	99%
Probst, Tim (D-17)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Reykdal, Chris (D-22)	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	60%
Rivers, Ann (R-18)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Roberts, Mary Helen (D-21)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Rodne, Jay (R-5)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✗	●	83%
Rolfes, Christine (D-23)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	●	77%
Ross, Charles (R-14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ryu, Cindy (D-32)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	70%
Santos, Sharon Tomiko (D-37)	✓	✓	✗	●	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	77%
Schmick, Joe (R-9)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Seaquist, Larry (D-26)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sells, Mike (D-38)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Shea, Matt (R-4)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	80%
Short, Shelly (R-7)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Smith, Norma (R-10)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Springer, Larry (D-45)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Stanford, Derek (D-1)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Sullivan, Pat (D-47)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Takko, Dean (D-19)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Taylor, David (R-15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	90%
Tharinger, Steve (D-24)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Upthegrove, Dave (D-33)	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	●	55%
Van De Wege, Kevin (D-24)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90%
Walsh, Maureen (R-16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Warnick, Judy (R-13)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Wilcox, J.T. (R-2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Wylie, Sharon (D-49)	②	②	②	✓	✗	✓	②	②	②	②	67%
Zeiger, Hans (R-25)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

② Rep. Wylie replaced Rep. Jacks mid-session.

● Absent or excused from voting