

Sen. Brad Hawkins

12th District Legislative Review



Sen. Brad Hawkins

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 12th District state senator.

It has been an amazing honor to represent our district in the Senate. This first year has provided both new responsibilities and new opportunities for our region. I was appointed vice chair of two policy committees and serve on one of the state's three budget committees. My caucus colleagues also elected me to the Senate leadership team as assistant floor leader.

Transitioning to the Senate and taking on these responsibilities certainly kept me busy, but I really enjoyed it. While the session took longer than expected, common in the budget years, the Legislature ultimately agreed upon a strong, bipartisan budget.

The Legislature approved three of my prime-sponsored bills this year, including an important statewide forest health bill that will reduce our risk of catastrophic wildfires. This bill was inspired by the Wenatchee-based Wildfire Project and the community conversations we have participated in following the "megafires" in 2014 and 2015. I also was proud to have worked with local leaders to secure \$2 million for the much-needed US 2/West Cashmere Bridge replacement project.

I look forward to continuing to build positive and bipartisan relationships at the Capitol to produce meaningful results. This legislative review highlights some of my activities this year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

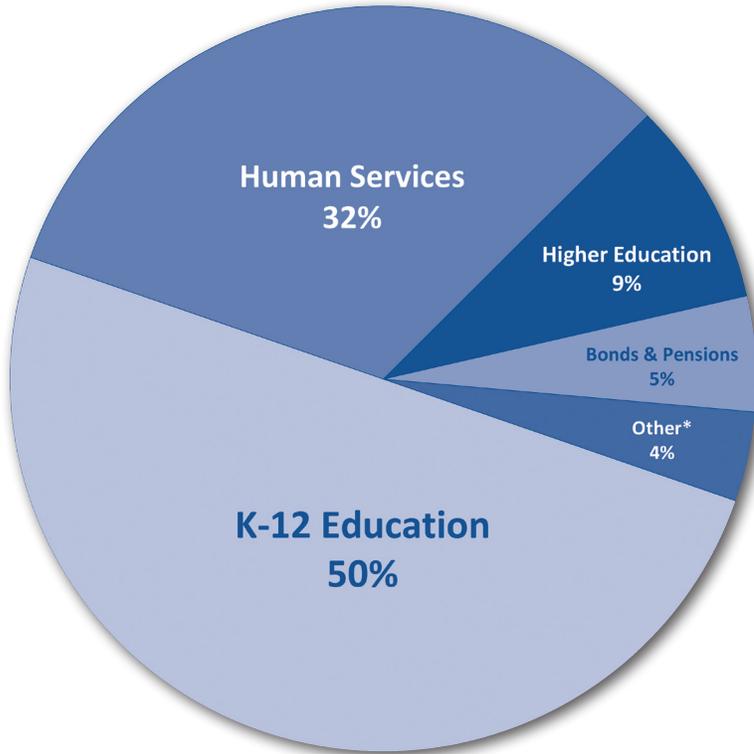
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad".

Brad Hawkins
State Senator
12th Legislative District
SenatorBradHawkins.org



Sen. Brad Hawkins • Legislative Review

New Budget Represents A Bold Step Forward



**Includes executive branch, natural resources, courts, early learning, and transportation.*

The \$43.7 billion operating budget for 2017-19 supplies critical support for K-12 education, higher education, health and human services, natural resources, state parks, public safety, and other key state services. Importantly, it avoids a new income tax, a real estate excise tax increase, and business taxes that many legislators wanted. The budget also responsibly reserves over \$2 billion to protect taxpayers in future years.

Funding for K-12 education will increase \$3.8 billion over the next two years. That includes more funding for career and technical education, gifted education, special education, and staff compensation. K-12 investments now comprise 50% of state spending.

The final budget also likely provides closure to the landmark 2012 state Supreme Court decision on education funding (the *McCleary* case). It sets in place a historic levy reform plan that increases the state portion of the common schools property tax while correspondingly reducing and capping local levy rates. The result is more funding to our schools and a more reliable and equitable educational funding system for students regardless of their address.

Legislature Approves Okanogan County Transportation Planning Bill

I am thankful that the Legislature approved my Senate Bill 5649 this session. This bill idea came to me at the request of Okanogan County officials. In 2013, Okanogan County found itself without a Regional Transportation Planning Organization home after Chelan and Douglas counties decided to focus more closely on their own transportation needs. This bill allows Okanogan County to form its own transportation planning organization so that the county can access funds to assist with long-term transportation planning.

I would like to thank Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody who has advocated for multiple years on this issue, Pateros Mayor Carlene Anders who testified before the Senate Transportation Committee, the Okanogan County Commissioners who supported this effort, and the Okanogan County Council of Governments who submitted letters of support for this change. Transportation planning is very important to Okanogan County, and I am glad to have assisted planning efforts by passing this legislation.



Washington State Senate Page Program

The Legislature offers a fantastic program for students to work as Senate pages. Students who are 14-16 years old spend one week at the Capitol learning about the legislative process, participating in mock hearings, and assisting members in the Senate chambers. Students from our district who are interested can contact my office for an application. *(Photo: Courtney Ulrich of Wenatchee was among the pages I sponsored this year.)*



Transportation Budget Includes \$2 Million for West Cashmere Bridge

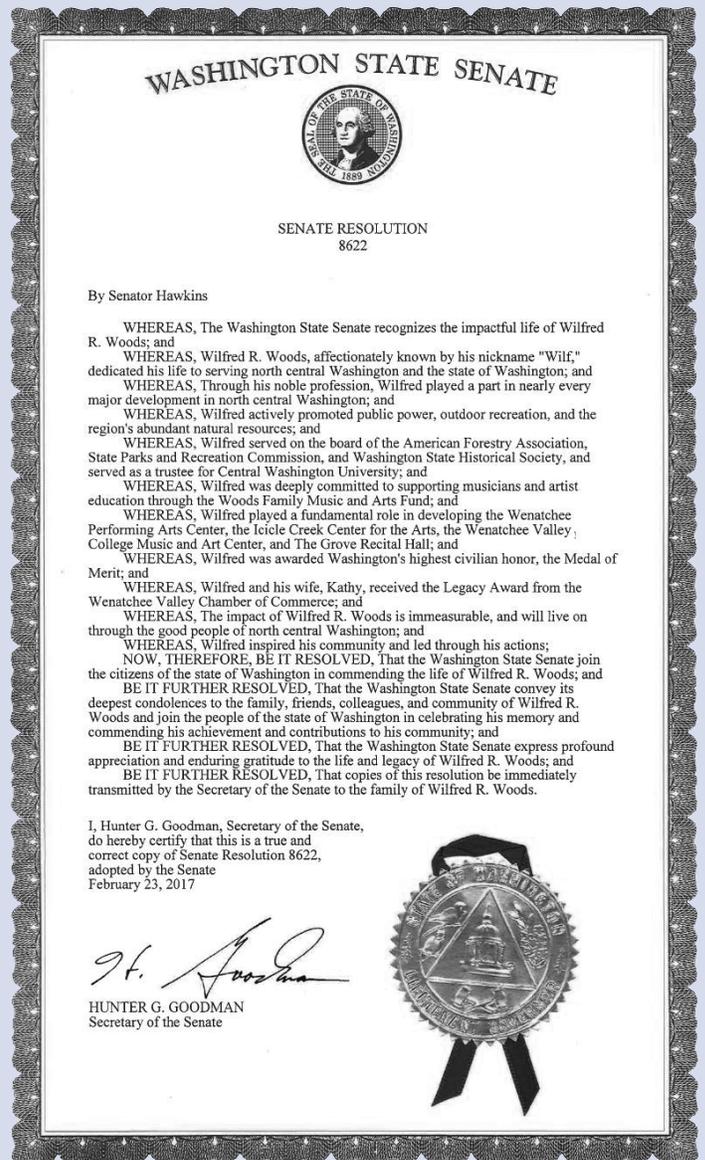
The US 2/West Cashmere Bridge, often called the Goodwin Bridge, is 85 years old and in significant need of replacement. I was very proud to team with “bridge ambassadors” from Cashmere and Chelan County to help secure \$2 million in new funding for this much-needed project. Federal, state, and local funding commitments now total \$20 million, with a new bridge expected to cost \$23 million. Application for a statewide freight-mobility grant may help Chelan County secure the remaining funds. (Photo: Our meeting with the Senate and House transportation leaders)

Apple Blossom Royalty Visit Capitol



Washington State Apple Blossom Festival Queen Amy Sand, Princess Alissa Riker, and Princess Paige Chvilicek made a visit to the state Capitol to promote our traditions and agricultural heritage. It was my pleasure to sponsor the Senate resolution honoring the Apple Blossom Festival and get acquainted with the members of this year’s Royal Court, who did a terrific job as ambassadors. They also met with their state representatives, Secretary of State Kim Wyman and Governor Jay Inslee.

Senate Honors Wilfred Woods



As a Wenatchee native who was a *Wenatchee World* paper carrier once upon a time, I (like so many of us) was saddened in February by the passing, at age 97, of Wilfred Woods – an iconic figure in our state who had been the *World's* editor and publisher from 1950 to 1997. “Wilf” was a kind, humble, and generous man. He led with his actions and always with a smile. My Senate colleagues joined me later that month in publicly honoring the life of Wilfred Woods, by passing Senate Resolution 8622, which I introduced. We were thankful that Wilfred’s son, Rufus, who succeeded his father as publisher, was seated appropriately at the press table in the Senate chambers during that ceremony and received the resolution on behalf of his family.

State Senator **Brad Hawkins**

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LD12



New Forest Health Law Targets Wildfire Risk

Under my Senate Bill 5546, the state Department of Natural Resources will develop a framework to assess and treat 1 million acres of fire-prone forest over 16 years, most likely through prescribed fire and mechanical thinning. Stakeholders will be involved in the process and the Legislature will receive biennial progress reviews. I am very grateful to the Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, and the Wenatchee-based Wildfire Project, who assisted me in my efforts.

I am also very thankful that my colleagues agreed with my request for \$100,000, through the state Department of Commerce, to help fund The Wildfire Project's important public education efforts. Those include the "Era of Megafires," an excellent multi-media educational presentation. I encourage everyone to attend one of their presentations to learn how we can continue to work together to reduce our risk of catastrophic wildfire.