

# Senator Brad Hawkins

## 12th District Legislative Review



**Senator  
Brad Hawkins**

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### HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

- [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov)
- [tvw.org](http://tvw.org)
- [fiscal.wa.gov](http://fiscal.wa.gov)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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

This was a busy and productive year. I continued in my leadership position of assistant floor leader for our caucus and served on three policy committees: Early Learning and K-12 Education; Energy, Environment and Technology; and Higher Education and Workforce Development.

One of the first accomplishments of our 60-day session was a bipartisan agreement on a new policy aimed at resolving water issues caused by last year's State Supreme Court's *Hirst* decision. The ruling had greatly complicated the process for getting local permission to drill wells for rural water. The *Hirst* legislation represents a positive step forward and provides clarity to landowners in our rural watersheds. The Legislature also approved a bipartisan capital budget, supplemental budgets, and other important bills this year.

During the session, the Legislature approved two of my three prime-sponsored bills. One was requested by Leavenworth officials to provide city residents with more options to dispose of brush and yard waste. The other was my second forest health bill to become law that helps the Department of Natural Resources implement its partnership agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. My office also worked closely with local elected officials and stakeholders to secure funding for important community projects.

I continue to work hard on building positive, long-lasting, and bipartisan relationships at the Capitol to produce meaningful results for our district. This newsletter highlights some of my recent activities.

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](http://SenatorBradHawkins.org)



# Senator Brad Hawkins • Legislative Review



## Leavenworth Bill Approved

One of my bills that passed this session came about as a result of a meeting in Leavenworth during my listening tour last October. Leavenworth officials told me how a recent boundary change for Washington's apple maggot quarantine area had limited their disposal options for brush and yard waste. This session, I introduced Senate Bill 6055, which gives Leavenworth residents alternative options for disposal of brush and yard waste rather than hauling it away to western Washington for disposal. *(Photo: Leavenworth councilmember Sharon Waters, administrator Joel Walinski and councilmember Margaret Neighbors testify in support of SB 6055.)*

## Forest Management Bill, SB 6211, Signed Into Law

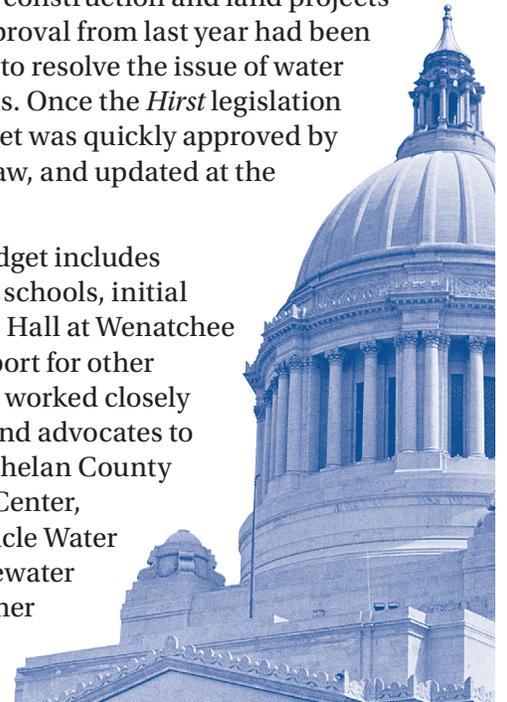
I am thankful that the Legislature and the governor approved my latest bill to help reduce our risk of wildfire. The law created by Senate Bill 6211 gives the state Department of Natural Resources immediate authority to handle revenue and authorize spending under the Good Neighbor Authority agreement signed by DNR and the U.S. Forest Service in 2017.

The Good Neighbor agreement allows our state to conduct forest management work on federal lands, and this new law helps finalize the state budget mechanism to implement that important work. This complements the law created in 2017 by my Senate Bill 5546, which directs DNR to establish a framework for assessing the health of fire-prone lands and treating them.

## Capital Budget Funds District Projects

The Legislature approved a new two-year state capital budget with strong bipartisan support early in the session. The capital budget funds important construction and land projects across our state. The approval from last year had been delayed due to the need to resolve the issue of water availability in rural areas. Once the *Hirst* legislation passed, the capital budget was quickly approved by legislators, signed into law, and updated at the end of the session.

The two-year capital budget includes matching funds for K-12 schools, initial funding to rebuild Wells Hall at Wenatchee Valley College, and support for other projects in our district. I worked closely with our local officials and advocates to secure funding for the Chelan County Emergency Operations Center, Twisp Civic Building, Icicle Water Project, Peshastin Wastewater Treatment Plant, and other important projects.



## 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 helping members in the Senate chambers. Students interested in paging during the 2019 session should contact my office for an application. *(Photo: Gwen McQuaig from Wenatchee High School was among the pages I sponsored this year.)*

## Local Transportation Projects Funded

**\$300,000 for the City of Chelan Traffic Mitigation Project**  
Chelan is planning enhancements to its historic Woodin Avenue Bridge, including converting it to one-way traffic. This will increase accessibility and improve pedestrian safety. In anticipation of this work, the city is working ahead to improve nearby traffic signals at intersections to facilitate continued growth and traffic flow through the area.

**\$400,000 for the North Wenatchee Avenue Bypass Study**  
Last year I wrote to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in support of an effort by local governments to improve transportation throughout the Wenatchee Valley. This vision includes a new bypass across the Wenatchee River for North Wenatchee Avenue, known as “Confluence Parkway.” The proposal requires an environmental review in the form of an environmental impact statement. The \$400,000 appropriation will help the City of Wenatchee as the lead agency to fund the study.

## Apple Blossom Royalty Visit Capitol



During the legislative session, the 2018 Apple Blossom Royal Court (Princess Jessica Murray, Queen Gretta Wiersma and Princess Sophie Castillo, left to right) visited the Capitol to promote the Apple Blossom Festival and our region’s traditions and agricultural heritage. It was my honor to sponsor a Senate resolution honoring the Apple Blossom Festival and to meet with the members of this year’s Royal Court. Our Apple Blossom Royalty are terrific ambassadors for the festival and the Wenatchee Valley.

## Saddle Rock Funding Approved



Saddle Rock, owned by the City of Wenatchee and operated as a park, is an iconic location for outdoor recreation. It offers year-round fun for thousands of individuals and families. Its improved trailhead has made this area more accessible and popular. The increased activity will require an improved trail design and maintenance.

During my 12th District listening tour, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust shared with me its plans to improve the Saddle Rock trail system, including creating an emergency access path and a smoother trail. The first step was long-awaited state grant dollars for soil remediation. With help from Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz, Land Trust Executive Director Curt Soper, and Representative Mike Steele, we secured funding in the supplemental capital budget for this work so that the trail enhancements could begin. By working together and making these investments, Saddle Rock will continue to be accessible for current and future generations.  
*(Photo: Peter Bauer Photography)*

## Additional Local Projects

Other local projects that received funding in the supplemental capital budget include Chelan County’s moderate risk waste facility and the Wenatchee WRIA 45 Pilot Project. WRIA 45 refers to one of the state’s water resource inventory areas within Chelan County. The project will explore water storage for long-term population growth, fish habitat, and water quality.

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