

Senator Brad Hawkins

12th District Legislative Review



**Senator
Brad Hawkins**

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COVID-19 VIRUS INFORMATION

- coronavirus.wa.gov (Official Site)
- cdc.gov (General Information)
- doh.wa.gov (Department of Health)
- lni.wa.gov (employer guidance)
- k12.wa.us (School Closures)
- esd.wa.gov (Employment Security)
- disasterloan.sba.gov (Federal Resources)
- dor.wa.gov/taxrelief (COVID-19 pandemic)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Department of Health: 1-800-525-0127
- Department of Revenue: 360-705-6705 (tax extensions and waiver requests)
- Labor and Industries: 360-902-5800

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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

The Legislature recently completed its session in Olympia on March 12 as scheduled. It was a busy time for me as I continued in my leadership position as assistant floor leader for our caucus. I also served as the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee's ranking member. In this role, I worked closely with the chair on committee issues and with communications about school closures in response to the COVID-19 virus.

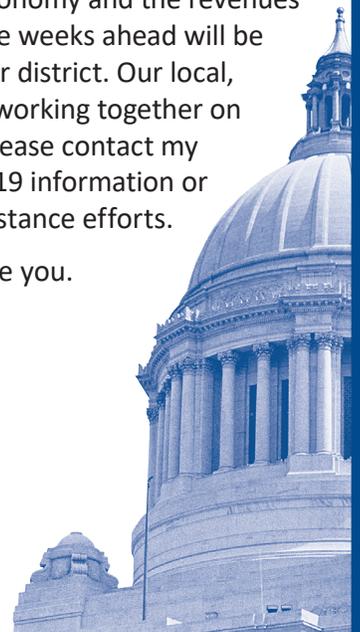
The Legislature approved all three budgets for the remainder of the 2019-21 biennium and a COVID-19 response bill. The operating budget (\$53.5 billion), capital budget (\$5 billion), transportation budget (\$10.5 billion), and the COVID-19 response bill (\$200 million) were finalized on the final day of session after much negotiation. I voted for the transportation budget, capital budget, and COVID-19 emergency authorization, but I voted against the final operating budget.

I could not support the broad scope of spending in the operating budget, especially during a time when the state is responding to the ongoing COVID-19 virus. There are many uncertainties with this crisis, and I am afraid it will have significant impacts on our overall economy and the revenues our state is projected to receive. The weeks ahead will be an especially challenging time for our district. Our local, state, and federal governments are working together on health care and economic efforts. Please contact my office if you need additional COVID-19 information or if we can help connect you with assistance efforts.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Brad Hawkins
State Senator
12th Legislative District
SenatorBradHawkins.org



Senator Brad Hawkins • Legislative Review

WA Apple License Plate Bill Receives Strong Approval



Washington Apple Education Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Witherbee (middle) smiles at Ruth Ortiz, a University of Washington graduate student and former scholarship recipient, during their testimony in support of Senate Bill 6032 before the Senate Transportation Committee.

Washington apples are a huge part of our 12th District and state economy. This is a significant year for Washington apples with ongoing trade challenges and the release of the newest apple variety, the Cosmic Crisp. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Washington Apple Education Foundation, the official charity developed by our local tree fruit industry.

I was proud to sponsor Senate Bill 6032 this session at the request of the Washington Apple Commission and the Washington Apple Education Foundation. Special thanks to both organizations who helped me secure passage of the bill. I also appreciate the help and support of my 12th District seatmates, Reps. Keith Goehner and Mike Steele.



In addition to funding college scholarships, promoting Washington apples and raising awareness of current challenges affecting our tree fruit industry are major benefits of Senate Bill 6032.

Positive Steps Forward On Hydropower Tax Incentives

A bill I sponsored that helps acknowledge hydropower's important role in providing clean energy took several positive steps forward this session, but it ultimately came up slightly short of the finish line. My Senate Bill 6012, renewable energy incentives, was introduced in an effort to promote equal tax treatment between hydropower clean energy and wind and solar energy.

My SB 6012 was approved by the Senate, funded in the Senate budget, and approved by a key House committee, but it was not approved by the House of Representatives in the final week of the session. My 12th District seatmate, Representative Keith Goehner, sponsored another form of a hydropower incentive bill, but it also did not advance all the way through the process this session.

Our 12th District legislative team and statewide hydropower stakeholders made tremendous progress in making our case for hydropower's role in providing clean energy. A bill approved last year requires the state to someday reach a level of 100 percent clean electricity, which was supported by many of my colleagues and promoted nationally by the governor, but our state cannot achieve such a level of clean energy without our renewable hydropower. Last year's bill extended tax benefits to all of the other clean energy sources, and hydropower deserves the same tax treatment.



My SB 6012 (renewable energy incentives) was introduced last year to help acknowledge hydropower's role in providing clean energy by extending similar tax incentives to hydropower as the state provides other clean energy resources. The bill took many positive steps forward this session. Photo: Wells Hydroelectric Project, located near Pateros, owned by Douglas PUD.

Apple Blossom Royalty Visit State Capitol



During the legislative session, the 2020 Apple Blossom Royal Court (Princess **Kelly Norland**, Queen **Tess Sparks**, and Princess **Kaia St. John**, left to right) visited the Capitol to promote this year's Washington State Apple Blossom Festival and North Central Washington's traditions and agricultural heritage. It was my honor to host the royalty, sponsor a Senate resolution honoring the Apple Blossom Festival, and to meet with the members of the 2020 Royal Court. Our Apple Blossom Royalty are terrific ambassadors for the festival and the Wenatchee Valley.

Capital Budget Funds Important Wenatchee Museum Project

\$275,000 – Community Space Improvements

Our 12th District capital budget request of \$275,000 for community space improvements at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center was funded in the final capital budget. Having access to adequate community meeting space is a growing concern for the Wenatchee Valley. The community has often relied upon the Wenatchee Valley Museum for community conversations, forums, recitals, and other events. The museum has graciously hosted these important events and discussions, but the facility was not originally designed for such a purpose and is in need of various capital improvements. The funding, supported by the 12th District legislators, is intended to make media, lighting, seating, sound improvements, and possibly an interior wall.



The capital budget funds community space improvements at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, including media, lighting, seating, sound upgrades, and possibly an interior wall providing separated meeting space.

Operating Budget Funds Water Transfer Study – Methow Valley



The supplemental operating budget approved by the Legislature includes a provision directing the Department of Ecology to study water transfers. The issue of water transfers, in particular out-of-basin transfers, is of significant interest to the Methow Valley due to the recent efforts by outside entities to acquire Methow Valley water. The budget provision directs Ecology to convene a work group to study the state's water trust, water banking, and the water transfer process, and calls for a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2020. Since last fall's potential water transfer out of the Methow Valley, my office has heard numerous concerns from Methow Valley residents. This issue is something I have been discussing with locals since my listening tour last fall to Twisp, Winthrop, and Mazama.

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Major Budget Items Approved (2017-2020):

- \$2 million (2017) West Cashmere Bridge
- \$1.2 million (2018) Chelan County EOC
- \$1.7 million (2017-18) Twisp Civic Building
- \$900,000 (2018) Saddle Rock improvements
- \$350,000 (2018) WRIA 45 water pilot project
- \$300,000 (2018-19) Era of Megafires funding
- \$100,000 (2018) Squilchuck fire reduction
- \$400,000 (2018) Confluence Parkway study
- \$300,000 (2018) Chelan traffic mitigation
- \$2 million (2019) Winthrop Library
- \$4 million (2019) Sewer extension
- \$35 million (2019) WVC Wells Hall
- \$283,000 (2020) Wenatchee Valley Museum



LD12

Prime-Sponsored Bills Passed:

- SB 5546 (2017) Forest health treatments
- SB 5720 (2017) Contracted forest thinning
- SB 5649 (2017) Transportation planning
- SB 6211 (2018) Wildfire accounting
- SB 6055 (2018) Leavenworth pilot project
- SB 5588 (2019) PUD renewable hydrogen
- SB 6032 (2020) Wash. apples license plate

Thank you!
Brew

