

Senator Steve Hobbs

WASHINGTON STATE SENATE

44th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SPRING 2010



Contact Information:

Olympia Office:

213 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40444
Olympia, WA 98504-0444

Phone: (360) 786-7686

Toll-free legislative hotline:

1-800-562-6000

TTY/TDD Hearing impaired hotline:

1-800-635-9993

E-mail:

hobbs.steve@leg.wa.gov

Web site:

www.sdc.wa.gov/senators/hobbs

Senate Committees:

- Senate Ways & Means
- Early Learning & K-12
- Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance (Vice Chair)



Dear friends and neighbors,

The 2010 legislative session has just ended, and now comes my opportunity to tell you about what was accomplished with regard to education, jobs, business development and transportation for the people of the 44th legislative district.

For instance, I helped secure hundreds of thousands of dollars for the planning phase of a major overhaul of the SR-9 and SR-204 intersection and for a traffic light at the intersection of 132nd and 39th near Archbishop Murphy High School to improve safety. And I worked to make government more efficient and accountable.

This newsletter also details my efforts to try and lessen the financial burden on Snohomish County families by voting against tax increases. I believe we must make government as lean as possible before asking struggling families to pay more. At the same time we must be careful not to make rash decisions that will in the end hurt Washington businesses.

My decisions often put me at odds with those who want to spend now and figure out how to pay for things later. But I came here to represent your views and protect the economic well-being of our state with common sense reforms and investments.

It is an honor and pleasure serving you. As always, I welcome your comments and questions.

Regards,


Steve

The budget

The 2010 legislative session will likely go down as one of the most difficult on record. I voted against both the budget and the revenue package because you made it clear to me that you don't want higher taxes at a time you're struggling to make ends meet. I agree that our families and businesses cannot bear the weight of additional taxes, and as a member of the Senate's budget writing committee, I made that view known.

Business growth and jobs

Long before the legislative session started, I was in close discussions with our business community about what we can do at the state level to spur economic growth and help businesses stay in business. Bills I voted in favor of directly address those issues.

(continued on next page)

The budget *(continued from previous page)*

Small business export financing: We will help businesses get adequate financing by authorizing the Small Business Export Finance Assistance Center to make loans or provide loan guarantees to finance export activities for Washington businesses with \$200 million or less in annual sales. (SB 6679)

Small business access to services: An entrepreneurial development and small business reference service will be created in the Department of Commerce to establish and maintain an inventory of training and technical assistance services, programs and resources available in the state. The end goal is to get everyone in the small business community on the same page with a short and long term focus on business stability, innovation and entrepreneurship. (SB 6667)

Data centers: Data centers bring stable, family wage jobs to the communities that support them. This year the Legislature passed a tax incentive for tech companies that put computer data centers in our rural counties. As many as 3,000 additional jobs to the regions of our state that need them most. (SB 6789)

Financing tools for local governments: This bill will support local revitalization efforts in our district by allowing local governments to build infrastructure and pay for it with future economic activity made possible because of the public investment. (SB 6609/SB 6241)

Washington Main Street Program: In order to protect our communities that rely on economic activity from tourism in historic downtowns, we are moving the Washington Main Street Program from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation so that it can be preserved for years to come. (HB 2704/SB 6507)

Aerospace: I sponsored legislation to create a world-renowned research coordination institute to provide and develop curriculum for a statewide consortium of schools and programs that provide aerospace workforce education and training. This legislation, which I will introduce again next session, is the result of my work on the Washington Council on Aerospace, which brings together leaders from the aerospace industry, state government, labor unions and higher education to improve worker training, research and academic programs. (SB 6678)

Preserving Snohomish County jobs: I helped lead efforts to protect family wage foundry jobs by providing a sales and use tax exemption for wax and ceramic materials used to create molds for castings. (SB 6339)

Alternative energy and aerospace: We passed legislation to extend expiring tax incentives for certain clean alternative fuel vehicles, producers of certain biofuels and aircraft repair stations to 2024. (SB 6712)

Education

While much of our attention was focused on the budget, we made significant progress toward making our K-12 and early learning education systems the best in the world.

Education reform: In February, a King County judge issued a ruling in the *McCleary v. State* case that echoed what many people knew all along: Washington is not adequately funding education. The court ordered the Legislature to work on a remedy by establishing the cost of providing all Washington children with a basic education and determining how it will fully fund education with dependable state sources.

HB 2776 further refines the new funding formula adopted last year and ensures that funding enhancements to our basic education obligations begin phase in during the 2011-13 biennium and are completed by 2018. Without the adoption of HB 2776, the promises we made in HB 2261, last year's landmark education reform effort, would be delayed at least another year.

SB 6696 complements the reform effort we began last year, while also positioning Washington to be competitive for

grants in the federal Race to the Top program. Under this proposal, all schools will benefit from increased accountability, flexibility and targeted reforms in educator preparation and evaluation systems.

Dropout prevention: We are tackling the dropout problem by allowing school districts to enter into agreements with educational service districts, community or technical colleges and other public entities to provide services to former students such as GED preparation, counseling and instruction. (HB 1418)

Alternative school funding: I, along with my Republican seatmate Rep. Mike Hope, sponsored legislation to require a work group created last year to examine alternative school funding to also examine options for a comprehensive K-12 finance policy. We must identify a new, equitable and sustainable funding system for our schools that will give our children the quality education they deserve while keeping taxes in check. Even though it didn't pass this year, we made strong progress together. We will introduce the bill again next year. (SB 6740/HB 2746)

Veterans

Encouraging veteran-owned businesses to thrive:

After long deployments and travel around the world, veterans returning home from service often find it difficult to reestablish the connections necessary to help their businesses thrive. That is why we passed a bill requiring the state to develop a directory of veteran-owned businesses and also encouraging state agencies to increase the number of contracts awarded to those businesses. (ESB 5041)

Creating a fund for disabled veterans: While many Washingtonians want to help the state's veteran population, the structures and mechanisms for doing so do not always exist. This bill creates an account in the state treasury where voluntary donations may be amassed for the welfare of our state's disabled and homeless soldiers. (HB 1876)

Clarifying how military leave is granted: Prior to the passage of this bill, there was some confusion amongst state agencies on when reservists and other military personnel would be granted military-related employment leave. This bill makes it clear that all relevant military duty qualifies for leave. (HB 2403)

Local issues: Transportation

Frontier Village Intersection: \$500,000 (planning): I was proud to work with my seatmates in the House to secure \$500,000 in the transportation budget for the planning stage of a major overhaul of the SR-9 and SR-204 intersection.

This intersection has been a major choke point for years and it has a negative impact on our efforts to increase economic development in the area.

The Frontier Village intersection was this year's top transportation priority. During the legislative session, several local government and community leaders came to Olympia and asked the Senate Transportation Committee to fund the first phase of the project. Several other projects we fought for the SR-9/Snohomish River Bridge and SR-9 route development projects are still on track and are being maintained at current funding levels.

Archbishop Murphy high: Another \$250,000 will be allocated for a traffic light at the intersection of 132nd and 39th near Archbishop Murphy High School to improve safety.

Health care

Protecting children: We are limiting the use of the chemical BPA in certain plastic products intended for children such as baby bottles, sippy cups and sports bottles. Evidence is mounting that it is harmful to the health of children and infants. It's estimated that more than 90 percent of Americans have detectable BPA levels in their bodies. (HB 1180)

Vaccines for children: We took steps to ensure that children in Washington will continue to have easy access to needed immunizations. In 2009, the Legislature was forced to abandon the universal purchase program because of the budget deficit and high vaccine prices. A new agreement between public and private groups has been reached to keep the program going. (HB 2551)

Small group insurance market: We are expanding the small group insurance market to help self-employed individuals and sole proprietors obtain more affordable health coverage. Businesses with up to 50 employees will be able to access and participate in the market. (SB 6538)

Environment

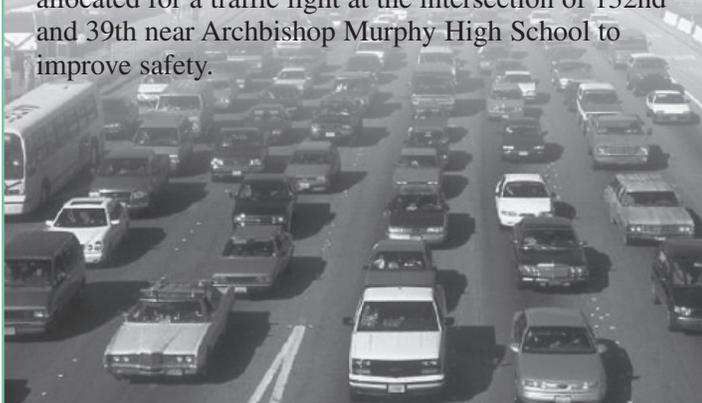
Solar energy: We passed a bill to expand opportunities for community solar energy projects in Washington by allowing project organizers to form LLCs to receive incentive payments of up to \$5,000 per year until 2020 for electric power from solar generation that is sold to a local utility. (SB 6658)

Fluorescent light bulbs: We are improving our environment by requiring compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) manufacturers to fund programs that provide free, convenient methods to collect used CFLs and to properly recycle and dispose of the bulbs without releasing mercury into the environment. (SB 5543)

Vehicle brake pads: In order to protect the environment, we passed a bill to limit the use of copper and other substances in vehicle brake pads. This legislation will phase out most copper in automobile brake pads over the next decade and encourage manufacturers to develop alternative brake friction materials that avoid copper and other toxic materials. (SB 6557)

Lawn fertilizers: We took steps to protect lake water quality by reducing phosphorus from lawn fertilizers. (SB 6289)

Biomass: We have authorized the Department of Natural Resources to enter into forest biomass supply agreements. (HB 2481)



Public safety

Sexual exploitation of children: We voted to create new offenses of first and second degree for viewing of depictions of child pornography, along with certain affirmative defenses. Prior to the passage of this bill, it has been difficult to prosecute people who merely viewed child pornography but didn't possess it. (HB 2424)

Violent offenders: If approved by the voters, we will amend the constitution to allow judges to deny bail to someone who has committed a crime that could result in life in prison if the individual has shown a history of violence that could endanger public safety. (HB 4220)

Stay in touch

I want to hear your views on the issues that are important to you and your family.

You may reach me by email at hobbs.steve@leg.wa.gov or call my office in Olympia at 360-786-7686, or you may use the Legislative Hotline Number 1-800-562-6000.

Steve Hobbs

State Senator, 44th District

Legislative victories

- Fought to preserve family wage jobs in Snohomish County
- Supported pro-small business legislation to create jobs
- Secured state transportation funding to improve Frontier Village Intersection gridlock and safety near Archbishop Murphy High
- Supported clean energy legislation
- Sponsored legislation to improve K-12 education funding

Sen. Hobbs on Senate floor



PO BOX 40444 • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0444



WASHINGTON STATE SENATE 44th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SPRING 2010

Senator Steve Hobbs

PRRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Olympia, WA
Permit #133