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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5273**

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**State of Washington**

**62nd Legislature**

**2011 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Natural Resources & Marine Waters (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Swecker, Rockefeller, Schoesler, Ranker, Morton, Hatfield, Delvin, Sheldon, Regala, and Hewitt; by request of Commissioner of Public Lands)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/11.

1       AN ACT Relating to authorizing the department of natural resources  
2 to conduct a study on forest biomass to aviation fuel; and creating new  
3 sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that forest biomass is  
6 an abundant and renewable by-product of Washington's forest land  
7 management. Forest biomass can be utilized to generate clean renewable  
8 aviation fuels.

9       In some Washington forests, residual forest biomass is burned on  
10 site or left to decompose. The lack of forest products markets in some  
11 areas means that removal of standing forest biomass for forest health  
12 and wildfire risk reduction treatments must occur at substantial cost.  
13 Utilizing forest biomass to generate clean renewable aviation fuels can  
14 reduce greenhouse gases emitted from burning forest biomass in open  
15 slash piles.

16       Research recently conducted in the Pacific Northwest found that  
17 emissions from regulated facilities utilizing forest residuals as their  
18 feedstock emitted fewer greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than

1 burning the feedstock in an open slash burn or, in some cases, fewer  
2 emissions than leaving the biomass to biodegrade.

3 The legislature finds that making use of the state's forest biomass  
4 resources for aviation fuel production may increase the value of  
5 Washington's commercial forest lands, generate new revenues from state  
6 lands, protect forest land of all ownerships from severe forest health  
7 problems and uncharacteristic wildfire, stimulate Washington's economy,  
8 create green jobs, and reduce Washington's dependence on foreign oil.

9 The legislature finds that opportunities exist to create  
10 living-wage green jobs through the development of an aviation biofuel  
11 sector in the state. Exploring opportunities for the forest products  
12 sector to collaborate with the states existing aviation sector to meet  
13 renewable energy goals will also help maintain existing jobs in both of  
14 these industries.

15 The legislature finds that work is already underway in exploring  
16 the potential of linking Washington's strong past in both timber and  
17 aeronautics with our future in renewable energy. The department of  
18 natural resource's forest biomass initiative and the sustainable  
19 aviation fuel northwest initiative have set the stage to enable  
20 Washington to emerge as a national leader in greening our country's and  
21 our world's aviation fuel.

22 It is the intent of the legislature to support existing efforts  
23 through the development and implementation of a forest biomass to  
24 aviation fuel demonstration biofacility project and strategy for  
25 initiating a broad forest biomass to aviation fuel sector in  
26 Washington.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By December 2012, the department of natural  
28 resources in collaboration with the department of commerce and research  
29 institutions, through the convening and conduct of an expert panel  
30 comprised of, but not limited to, representatives from state agencies,  
31 local governments, natural resource industries, biofuel producers, oil  
32 refiners, utilities, infrastructure providers, transportation fuel  
33 markets, and environmental groups, shall provide the legislature with  
34 a report detailing a strategy for developing a broad forest biomass to  
35 aviation biofuel sector in the state. The report must:

36 (1) Integrate forest biomass supply data being collected and report

1 findings by the University of Washington in collaboration with the  
2 department of natural resources to be used to estimate potential forest  
3 biomass supply and potential aviation production volumes;

4 (2) Include a fully vetted supply chain strategy for forest biomass  
5 to aviation fuel;

6 (3) Identify existing and potential sites where bioprocessing could  
7 be colocated, such as operating or closed pulp and paper installations  
8 and other existing industrial sites;

9 (4) Identify state and other public resources that can be used to  
10 accelerate the supply chain development including, but not limited to:  
11 Education and work-force training needs; transportation and utility  
12 infrastructure; and biofuels and bioproduct purchase contracts by  
13 public agencies;

14 (5) Identify opportunities to collaborate with other states and  
15 federal agencies;

16 (6) Address and plan to ensure sustainability, leveraging existing  
17 safeguards such as the state's forest practices rules;

18 (7) Include estimates on the number of jobs retained and created  
19 through the development of a forest biomass to aviation fuel sector;

20 (8) Identify funding opportunities available for a forest biomass  
21 to aviation fuel demonstration project;

22 (9) Identify any opportunities for legislative action that could  
23 further facilitate a biomass to aviation fuel industry;

24 (10) Identify and explore linkages with the president's biofuels  
25 interagency working group. This must include:

26 (a) A clear description of a full supply chain opportunity in  
27 Washington; and

28 (b) A request for federal funding to support this effort;

29 (11) Provide an update on progress toward implementation of a  
30 demonstration biofacility in the state pursuant to section 2 of this  
31 act.

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