

## Governor will sign Takko's bill strengthening state's timber industry

Tuesday, March 23 2010 - [Dean Takko](#)

### **Three aims: Measure targets jobs, revenue, and conservation**

**OLYMPIA** – Although the Legislature still has 2010 work to do, a key timber bill has navigated the state-capital obstacle course with nary a single opposing vote.

State [Rep. Dean Takko](#) pointed out that his prime-sponsored [House Bill 2541](#) directs the state Department of Natural Resources to write landowner-conservation proposals that support forest landowners. The proposals must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2011.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously passed Takko's measure in this year's regular legislative session. The governor is poised to sign the bill, which will provide conservation incentives defending timber jobs, public resources, and private, working forestland.

Takko said the legislation creates a collaborative approach to balance job protection with protecting the environment.

"Our state has lost 16 pulp mills just in the past five years," said the Longview Democrat, who represents southwestern Washington's 19th Legislative District. "We've seen thousands of workers thrown out of a job. We need to help private foresters maintain land and continue to move wood products.

"This bill looks both to keep the timber industry economically viable and to explore opportunities for protecting the environment."

State [Rep. Lynn Kessler](#), D-Hoquiam (24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District), who co-sponsored the bill with Takko, says many rural communities are dependent on a healthy forest-products industry.

"Timber dollars support small businesses; they support local schools," Kessler said. "When the industry is stable, these communities thrive."

**Mark Doumit**, Executive Director of the Washington Forest Protection Association, said that "we greatly appreciate Representative Takko's leadership on this legislation.

"He and other legislators recognize that in order for working forests to continue to protect our environment and provide tens of thousands of jobs in our state, we need to focus on ways to make owning forestland economically viable," Doumit continued. "The alternative is conversion and permanent loss of those lands."

The forest-products industry is Washington's second largest manufacturing sector, providing nearly 45,000 direct jobs and almost 100,000 indirect jobs.

Takko said the legislation recognizes that "a vibrant and working forest-land base produces multiple conservation values for the public, as well as jobs and public revenue.

"Sustainable forestry practices will help preserve Washington's natural landscapes and ecosystems by keeping forestry as a priority land use," he said.

The bipartisan legislation also promotes development of conservation incentive proposals that support forest landowners in maintaining their land in forestry.

Takko's bill recognizes the importance of emerging ecosystem services markets and places emphasis on accessing capital to finance ecosystem services. The legislation also requires the Department of Natural Resources to develop a report on conservation incentives which protect, restore and maintain the ecological values that the public enjoys, such as recreation, clean water, renewable energy, carbon storage and habitat for fish and wildlife.

The department's report will be developed in consultation with the Forest Practices Board, Indian tribes, small forest landowners, conservation groups, industrial foresters and state, federal and local government. Proposals must be presented to the governor and Legislature by Dec. 31, 2011.

The Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers also supported the bill in committee testimony.

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