GOVERNOR GREGOIRE'S 2009 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

GOVERNOR'S REQUEST LEGISLATION WHICH PASSED LEGISLATURE

JOBS & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Stimulus for unemployment insurance — Extending and boosting unemployment insurance payments temporarily for those out of work (House Bill 1906)

Foreclosures — Requiring that 30 days must pass before the notice of default can be filed will give homeowners more time to refinance or explore other options (Senate Bill 5810)

TRANSPORTATION

Alaskan Way Viaduct — Identifying the final design for the Viaduct replacement project as a deepbored tunnel gets us started on the project vital to the region's economy (SB 5768)

State Route 520 Bridge — Authorizing early tolling helps generate revenue to begin work on the floating bridge portion of this replacement project (HB 2211)

Washington State Ferries — Moving forward on a long-range strategy that includes revitalizing the ferry service by constructing new vessels while keeping fares affordable (budget)

Stimulus for transportation — Putting Washington to work as we rebuild our infrastructure to maintain our competitive edge in the global economy (HB 1978)

Container ports — Ensuring that land-use planning allows major ports to thrive is crucial to Washington, the most trade-dependent state in the nation (HB 1959)

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Department of Commerce — Renaming and re-tasking this state agency will maintain a focus on jobs and economic development for the benefit of all Washingtonians (HB 2242)

Cemetery and funeral boards consolidation — Eliminating duplicative responsibilities to make government leaner and more responsive to citizens (HB 2126)

Consolidation of responsibilities for salmon protection activities into the Recreation and Conservation Office — Ensuring a greater level of oversight while cutting duplication and expenses (HB 2157)

State agency hours — Allowing agencies to build upon successful pilot programs to condense work weeks to save energy, travel costs for employees (SB 6104)

Washington Quality Forum — Abolishing the Forum in the Health Care Authority, whose work is hindered by the state hiring freeze (SB 6002)

Board and commissions eliminations — Reducing groups whose missions are outdated, overlap with another group or better performed elsewhere will save money and employee resources (SB 5995)

CAPITAL

Creating transparency in the debt limit – Eliminating the statutory debt limit gives the state a single, constitutional debt limit (SB 5537)

Consolidating accounts — Near General Fund accounts are consolidated into the General Fund, which provides transparency and increases the capacity of the capital budget (SB 5073)

Providing flexible uses for building fees – Funds to support higher education projects will be used for debt retirement (HB 2254)

HEALTH

Wellness incentives – Permitting insurance companies operating in the state to offer wellness programs promotes healthy employees and drives down health care costs (HB 2160)

Medical home pilots — Putting emphasis on primary care and moving health care to a team approach will better serve the health care needs of patients (SB 5891)

Use of generic drugs — Aiming to make the rate of use of generic drugs in the Medicaid program comparable to that of the private sector will lower costs (SB 5892)

Public Employees Benefits Board — Clarifying the eligibility standards for employee health benefits makes it easier for individuals to understand and helps prevent unnecessary lawsuits (HB 2245)

EDUCATION

Professional Educator Standards Board — Making more efficient operations, aligning teacher education policy efforts and streamlining the certificate revocation appeal process (HB 2003)

ENERGY

Tax incentives for plug-in vehicles — Exempting the sale of electric vehicle batteries or the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure from retail sales and use tax will contribute to a cleaner environment (HB 1481)