



Quietskies

Over San Juan County

Update: January 24 , 2018

ACTION ALERT:

Washington State House Bill 2341 - WHICH DEFINITELY AFFECTS GROWLERS and ALSO all of Washington State.

HB 2341: "AN ACT Relating to the protection of military installations operated by the United States armed services from incompatible development."

As it's loosely worded now, this bill would pretty much turn over land use decisions anywhere in Washington State to military commanders. This is happening to a lesser degree in a few other states, but nowhere as extreme as HB 2341 here. Several savvy cooperative groups are working and have commented on this, and they need our help in piling on with objections.

To understand this issue, PLEASE READ this article: <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/43303-the-military-wants-to-dictate-private-land-use-and-washington-state-might-let-it>

RIGHT NOW THIS BILL IS IN THE Washington State ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: Meeting January 24, 2018, at 8am.

THIS IS A PRECEDENT SETTING BILL - The Washington Military Alliance (WMA), is a taxpayer-funded super-pac between the defense industry, the military, and our state government. Governor Inslee chairs the WMA.

ITS STATED PURPOSE IS TO CONTINUALLY EXPAND MILITARY PRESENCE AND SPENDING IN THIS STATE. WMA wrote the bill and is pushing hard for it and a companion bill in the Senate. It's time to let the legislature know we object.

You can access the bill here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=2341&Year=2017>

What's worse is that it has "green governor" Inslee's approval! It is being sold as a jobs bill.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS TODAY Wednesday, 24 January, OR BEFORE 8:00 am on Thursday, January 25, 2018. to the Environment Committee. They meet the morning of Jan.25. Contact information attached and included at the end of this email.

SAMPLE COMMENTS are BELOW.

It'll take maybe 15 minutes of your time to send this to each of the 9 members of the Environmental Committee.

Email or call in comments to the following:

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Fitzgibbon, Joe (D) Chair 305 John L. O'Brien Blg.
(360) 786-7952
Joe.Fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov

Peterson, Strom (D) Vice Chair 324 John L. O'Brien Blg
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Jake.Fey@leg.wa.gov

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McBride, Joan (D) 335 John L. O'Brien Blg (360) 786-
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Joan.McBride@leg.wa.gov

SAMPLE COMMENTS:

HB2341 Sample comments to copy and paste in an email:

24 January 2018

Members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing to you to register my strong opposition to HB 2341.

The proposed bill places an unfair burden upon cities and counties and other agencies in Washington State when incompatibility issues arise between communities and the military, in the following ways:

1. It makes the prohibition of incompatible development mandatory, even if development "may interfere" with current or future military activity. Requiring city and county governments to know what might be a future military requirement is an impossible demand.
2. It extends these prohibitions to public and private lands that are not adjacent to military installations, and leaves incompatibility decisions to military commanders. This could conceivably result in public and private land condemnations as far away as the sounds of explosives, military airports, or other military noise or activity may be heard.

HB 2341 seeks to retroactively alter the original intent of Joint Land Use Studies by forcing communities to bypass community comprehensive planning programs and processes, and to adopt military "recommendations."

3. It applies these prohibitions to the benefit of any military installation, no matter how small. As currently worded, HB 2341 would allow even small military installations to control land uses for surrounding communities. There are currently no regulatory or legal requirements for established Joint Land Use Studies. This was never the intent of the Department of Defense's Joint Land Use Study Program, whose guidance says, "The JLUS program relies on strong community planning and land use regulatory (zoning) capabilities to implement the compatibility recommendations through local community's comprehensive planning programs and processes."

This bill would effectively eliminate the public's right to due process by turning these decisions over to military commanders. It's a complete affront to democratic principles and practices that are the foundation of environmental law in this country.

4. By outlawing all land uses that may be incompatible with present or future missions of United States military installations, the bill presents an “inverse condemnation” of property, where the government takes property without compensating for it. This bill violates Article 1, Section 18 of the Washington State Constitution. That provision unambiguously states: “The military shall be in strict subordination to civil power.” It also violates the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. That amendment reserves to the States the powers not granted to the federal government or prohibited by it to the States.

Sacrosanct among the powers reserved to the States is the power to adopt local zoning regulations.

HB 2341 would have enormous consequences for Washington State.

The fact that this bill and Senate Bill 6456 are being pushed by the Washington Military Alliance, a taxpayer-funded political action committee to expand military base presence in Washington State without regard to the health, welfare or will of your constituents, has alarmed many of your constituents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 2341.

Sincerely,