

10/15/81

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILMAN LAING
Proposed No. **81-726**

MOTION NO. 5343

1
2 A MOTION requesting the Government of
3 Washington State to establish a Regional
4 Agricultural Task Force to preserve and
enhance the agricultural infrastructure
of Western Washington.

5 WHEREAS, a multi-county and hoc agricultural committee of
6 officials and concerned citizens from Western Washington counties
7 has determined that agricultural land is a unique and threatened
8 resource in Western Washington, and

9 WHEREAS, such land is ideally suited for production of food
10 and fiber, and

11 WHEREAS, agricultural business in Western Washington repre-
12 sents an important sector of the state's economy which is
13 forecasted to become more valuable as an energy-efficient and
14 productive resource readily available to serve the majority of
15 residents in Washington State, and

16 WHEREAS, the loss of agricultural production would be
17 detrimental to the overall quality of life in Western Washington,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, a number of Western Washington counties, including
20 King County, have taken measures to preserve farmlands, and

21 WHEREAS, efforts by individual counties alone will not
22 adequately address the regional decline of the agricultural
23 industry in Western Washington;

24 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

25 A regional approach is needed to recognize the importance
26 and value of agriculture within Western Washington and the
27 Governor of Washington State is hereby requested to establish
28 a Regional Agriculture Task Force which shall study agricultural
29 problems, make recommendations to the Governor concerning actions
30 the State of Washington should take in regard to legislative
31 changes, executive direction, and other measures which would
32 preserve and enhance agriculture in Western Washington. The
33 Task Force should address, among others, these issues: the

1 competitive situation of Western- Washington agriculture, the
 2 agricultural marketing and processing infrastructure, new farmer
 3 assistance programs, support systems for enhancing agricultural
 4 viability, production costs and conflicts between farm and non-
 5 farm interests.

6 • It is recommended that the Regional Agricultural Task Force
 7 include representatives of, at least: farmers, consumers, agri-
 8 cultural industries, counties, the Washington Association of
 9 Counties, the Association of Washington Cities, the State Legis-
 10 lature, the Washington State Conservation Commission, the
 11 Washington State Departments of Agriculture and Commerce and
 12 Economic Development and the Planning and Community Affairs
 13 Agency. The Task Force should be chaired by the Director of
 14 Agriculture or his appointee. Staffing should be provided by
 15 the Department of Agriculture with assistance from the Cooperative
 16 Extension Service, the United States Department of Agriculture
 17 and Washington State University as needed.

18 BE IT FURTHER MOVED,


19 The Governor is requested to establish the Regional
 20 Agricultural Task Force at the earliest possible convenience.

21 PASSED this 19th day of October, 1981.

22 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
 23 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

24 
 25 _____
 26 Chairman

27 ATTEST:

28 
 29 _____
 30 Deputy Clerk of the Council
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