

DRC WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
FEBRUARY 27, 2009

Action Alert! Local Foods Lobby Day

Come to the Capitol on Wednesday, March 4, to meet and talk to members of the Senate Agriculture Committee and other Senators about the importance of local foods to our state's economy and health! We will meet at 10 a.m. in the cafeteria, which is featuring local foods that day. Our bill, HB 1543 will be heard on Friday (see below).

Action in the Past Week:

- **HB 1277 Geothermal Tax credit on short form**, received a 6-0 Do Pass recommendation from the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee.
- **HCR 3044 Wind Rights Study**, a bill that would direct the Legislative Council to study turbine spacing, surface estate noise and visual issues related to wind turbines got a 13-0 Do Pass from the House Natural Resources Committee.
- **HCR 3045 Abandoned and severed mineral rights study** would direct the Legislative Council to study how landowners are impacted by oil and gas development in cases of severed interests and to determine if abuses are occurring. It received a Do Pass from the House Natural Resources Committee.

Action in the coming week:

- **HB 1543 Local foods procurement bill**, This bill was introduced at the request of DRC and MVRC. It was amended to read: "Whenever possible, each state agency, institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education, and political subdivision having the authority to purchase food products may purchase food products produced in this state." Senate Agriculture Committee, Roosevelt Park Room, Friday, March 6, 8:30 a.m.
- **HB 1322 Energy Policy Commission**, Would create an energy policy commission and provide for a water resources study; and to provide for a legislative council study, will be heard by the Senate Natural Resources Committee in the Fort Lincoln Room, Thursday, March 5, 10:15 a.m.
- **HB 1338 Landfill study**, Would provide for a legislative council study of the siting and zoning of landfills, will be heard by the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee, Red River Room, Friday, March 6 at 9:20 a.m. DRC supports this bill.
- **SB 2352 Energy code elimination**, Eliminates a requirement that state builders follow the American Building Officials Model Energy Code and directs them to follow the state code, **however there is no specific state building conservation code**. DRC opposes this bill. House Political Subdivisions, Prairies Room, Thursday, March 5, 9 a.m.
- **SB 2411 Reduction in requirement for PSC siting**, Would reduce the requirements for PSC siting of electrical facilities from 100 MW to 25MW. DRC supports this bill. House Natural Resources Committee, Pioneer Room, Friday, March 6 10 a.m.