

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6340

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Natural Resources, February 1, 1996

**Title:** An act relating to state forest land that lies above a single source aquifer.

**Brief Description:** Protecting single source aquifers that lie above state land.

**Sponsors:** Senators Haugen and Drew.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources: 1/25/96, 2/1/96 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6340 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Drew, Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; Hargrove, Haugen, Morton, Oke, Owen, Snyder and Swecker.

**Staff:** Vic Moon (786-7469)

**Background:** The maintenance of pure water and a steady supply of water is particularly important in the case of areas served by a single aquifer. Developing all of the land over an aquifer will limit the ability of the aquifer to recharge.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** State agencies must maintain continuing forestry on all state forest lands on islands when those lands lie above a single source aquifer. State-owned forest lands must not be converted to a higher use when the conversion would have a potential negative impact on a single source aquifer. A joint House and Senate study of conversion of state lands is authorized.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The bill applies to all state lands and is limited to lands above sole source aquifers on islands.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** All lands should be allowed to continue in forestry to allow for clear air and water as well as open space.

**Testimony Against:** The proposal could violate the Department of Natural Resources trust mandate.

**Testified:** Dan Cantrell, WEC; Kent Lebsac, Cattlemen's Assn. (pro); Stan Biles, DNR (con).