

VETO MESSAGE ON E2SSB 5649

May 7, 2009

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have approved, except for Section 403, Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5649 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to achieving greater energy efficiency in buildings."

Section 403 of the bill requires the Governor to designate a single point of accountability for all energy and climate change initiatives within state agencies. This language duplicates the requirements contained in Substitute Senate Bill 5921, Section 4(1). I signed Substitute Senate Bill 5921 on May 4, 2009. As a result, this provision is not needed and I have vetoed Section 403 of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5649.

Some stakeholders have expressed concerns regarding Section 202 of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5649. Section 202 of the bill establishes new employment and reporting requirements for the state's existing low income weatherization program. It will be important to implement these new requirements in a manner that allows the local community action agencies and their funding sponsors to comply efficiently and effectively with the new requirements. To that end, I will direct the Department of Commerce to prepare administrative rules immediately to address the interpretation of the new requirements.

With the exception of Section 403, Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5649 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor