



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —**

May 17, 2025

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

Esteemed Colleagues:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 6, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5390 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to access to a recreation site or lands."

Section 6 of this act requires the Recreation and Conservation Office to establish a work group to review how recreation and park functions are currently funded for the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Natural Resources. The cost of this workgroup diverts limited resources from the immediate needs of all three agencies towards a study of long-term funding options. This redirection of funds risks hindering the current operational capabilities and essential work of these agencies, specifically State Parks, which the bill aims to support.

Furthermore, the outcome of this work group is speculative, offering no guarantee of a viable or timely alternative to the proposed fee increases. I am directing my Outdoor Recreation Special Assistant to undertake a more direct and efficient approach to collaborate directly with State Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Office of Financial Management to strategically explore sustainable and equitable funding models. This would allow for a more focused and effective approach to addressing the long-term financial needs of these critical agencies.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 6 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5390.

With the exception of Section 6, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5390 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Ferguson  
Governor