

# Please Support E2SHB 1634

## Improving safety for workers and the public

House Bill 1634, sponsored by Rep. Takko, is a much needed improvement to our statutes governing safe digging practices. The product of 2 years of stakeholder efforts, E2SHB 1634 passed the House with 93 votes and will improve communication in the field between the operators of underground utilities and excavators in the following ways:

- Requires excavators to clearly mark the area of excavation with white paint before calling for utility locates;
- Establishes expiration dates for field markings of utilities;
- Clarifies the responsibility to mark underground utilities whose location is in doubt;
- Defines large projects and the steps necessary to make sure facility operators can focus their efforts on the location where excavation will occur;
- Establishes that certain emergency procedures are not subject to the mandatory wait-time in the current law;
- Requires the operator of a previously unlocatable facility to take steps while the facility is exposed so that it can be located accurately in the future;
- Protects transmission pipelines by requiring notification of projects near the right-of-way as part of the building permit process;
- Requires all damages to be reported to a central database so that education efforts can be targeted precisely;
- Establishes an industry "safety committee" to review possible violations of the law and recommend enforcement actions;
- Identifies an agency responsible for enforcing the penalties in the law;
- Increases penalties for repeat violations;
- Dedicates fine money to educational efforts to improve safety;
- Corrects ambiguous definitions in the existing law

The bill has a January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 effective date to provide time to educate excavators, facility operators and the public before the new requirements go into effect. The bill is also a necessary step to meet the new federal expectations for state damage prevention programs as outlined in the PIPES Act of 2006, and has the potential to increase federal funding for our pipeline safety programs at the Utilities and Transportation Commission.

**Please vote "Yes" on E2SHB 1634!**

## Organizations that support E2SHB 1634

Olympic Pipe Line Company  
Utility Contractors Assn of Washington  
Puget Sound Energy  
The Pipeline Safety Trust  
Northwest Gas Association  
Williams Northwest Pipeline  
Avista Corporation  
Cascade Natural Gas Company  
Associated General Contractors  
Northwest Natural Gas  
American Council of Engineering  
Companies of Washington  
American Institute of Architects  
American Subcontractors Association,  
Northwest Chapter  
Associated Builders & Contractors,  
Inland Pacific Chapter  
Associated Builders & Contractors of  
Western Washington  
Building Industry Association of  
Washington  
Contractors Bonding & Insurance Co.  
Inland Northwest Associated General  
Contractors  
Masonry Institute of Washington  
Master Builders Association of King &  
Snohomish Counties  
NAIOP, Washington State Chapter  
Washington Aggregates & Concrete  
Association  
Washington Asphalt Pavement  
Association  
Washington State Conference of Mason  
Contractors

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