



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Insurance Building, PO Box 43113 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3113 • (360) 902-0555

June 2, 2010

Ms. Rhonda Fenrich, Attorney
Garrettson, Gallagher, Fenrich & Makler
423 Lincoln Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Dear Ms. Fenrich:

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6503 (ESSB 6503) was enacted by the 2010 Legislature (Chapter 32, Laws of 2010). ESSB 6503 requires agencies to reduce employee compensation costs as provided in the supplemental budget. The legislation provides that agencies must close on the ten (10) days specified in the bill, unless an agency has a compensation reduction plan that is approved by the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

The Department of Fish and Wildlife – in which your organization represents employees (WAFWP) – has notified OFM that it will not be submitting a compensation reduction plan. Therefore, the employees within the Department of Fish and Wildlife whose positions are not exempt from the compensation cost reductions provided for in the legislation will be subject to temporary layoffs in accordance with Section 3(2) of ESSB 6503. These employees will be temporarily laid off pursuant to Article 31.5 of the parties' 2009-2011 collective bargaining agreement.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) believes this decision will provide the greatest amount of certainty to both the public and its staff on the impacts of the closures. In addition, this uniform approach will reduce the resources that agencies must expend to manage the compensation cost reductions, including payroll processing and the conversion of overtime exempt employees to overtime eligible status during the weeks of the temporary layoffs. The Department will be notifying all of its staff of this decision and will provide you with a copy of the notice.

The OFM Labor Relations Office received your demand to bargain on behalf of WAFWP on April 29, 2010. In accordance with Section 4 of ESSB 6503, the parties are required to bargain the impacts of the temporary layoffs. The Labor Relations Office will be in contact with you to schedule negotiations.

Sincerely,

Marty Brown
Director

cc: Diane Leigh, OFM Labor Relations Office
Phil Anderson, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife

