

Senate Bill 6157 & House Bill 2469

FAQs

Why is it important to Warehouse Crop Protection Products in Washington State for use in the Pacific Northwest?

Collectively, Agriculture is big business, with 39,500 farms who employ 160,000 people in Washington State alone. Commercial agriculture relies upon a readily available and sufficient supply of crop protection products warehoused in centralized locations accessible by multiple modes of transportation.

If it's good for the economy, is it still in the best interest of the environment?

Yes! Washington State has the most stringent environmental regulations in the Pacific Northwest that protect our natural resources while feeding people domestically and abroad. These warehouses containing crop protection products are enclosed, insulated, and possess the most current hazmat containment while meeting or exceeding the sprinkler and electrical local and state code requirements. In fact, sophisticated monitors contained within the bulk tanks are able to detect leaks should they occur and immediately notify the warehouse managers of any problems 24/7. Warehouses in Washington State employ the outer perimeter standards and requirements provided by Homeland Security. Controlled warehouse storage in Washington State surpasses most of the safety capabilities available in multiple sites located around the state at either retail or farm locations. As a result, it is in the best interest of all Washingtonians to store a readily available supply of crop protection products in Washington's safe and secure warehouses.

The Hazardous Substance Tax (HST) is used to fund programs which clean up spills and educates the public about spill prevention. Will it continue?

Absolutely! If SB 6157 & HB 2469 pass, the HST will continue to be collected on all Ag Crop protection products sold in Washington State. This legislation clarifies the existing exemption already in the HST law with respect to Interstate Commerce by exempting products flowing through and later sold into neighboring states. It also removes the disincentive to use our state for regional distribution, which may create a longer wait time for our farmers. Product availability and timely application means less product applied in the fields and better crop yields (less damage to the crops caused by the disease, fungus, weeds, or insects). The HST on crop protection products sold, used and applied in Washington State remains unchanged.

