



**Northwest  
Regional Planning  
Commission**

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TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy  
FROM: Catherine Dimitruk, Executive Director  
RE: H. 940  
DATE: April 13, 2026

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Thank you for the opportunity to present feedback on H. 940. The Department of Public Service (DPS) collaborated with the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) when developing the language related to enhanced energy planning. RPCs support these changes and provided testimony in support to the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

The proposed changes focus on process only, and do not modify policy. In short the changes will:

1. Allow an addition year after adoption of the state Comprehensive Energy Plan for DPS to develop the required energy plan standards. This additional time provides opportunity for a more thoughtful and collaborative process.
2. Align the timelines of the Land Use Review Board and the Department of Public Service when they are reviewing regional plans. This will be more efficient and will help RPCs get comments as early in the process as possible.
3. Allow DPS to rely on the RPC's required public hearings rather than hold their own after the plan is adopted. This will be more efficient and effective. It will incorporate public comment during a time when the plan is still in draft form and will encourage more participation in the process.
4. Allow for 'provisional approval' to cover the gap from when a plan is adopted by the town or RPC to when it is approved by the RPC (local plans) or DPS (regional plans).
5. Allow DPS to determine that a newly adopted regional plan does not need a new 'positive determination of energy compliance' if the enhanced energy plan was not changed. This is important because all RPCs are updating parts of their regional plans by December 2026 to comply with Act 181.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am happy to answer questions or provide additional information.