



# Support HB 1333

## Extend The Rural Public Facility Tax Expiration Date to December 31, 2054

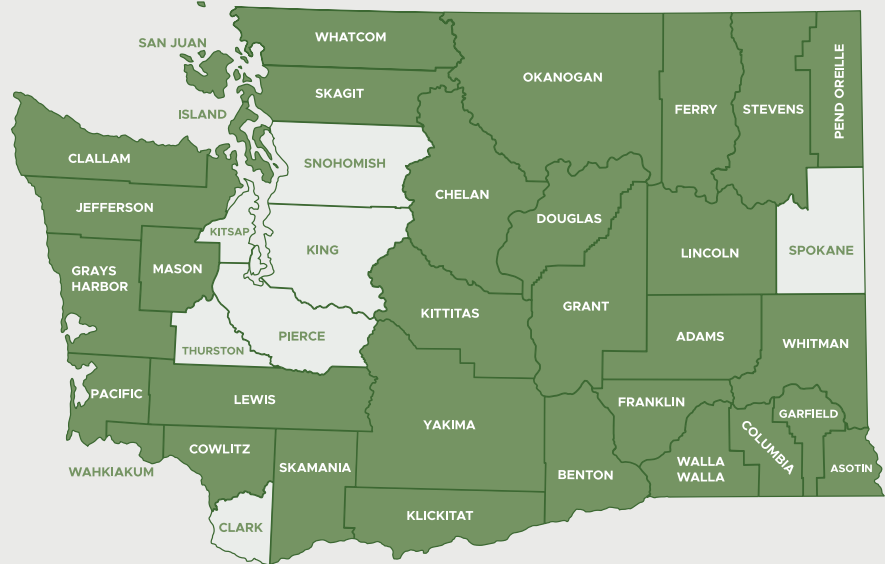
Rural counties may impose a 0.09 percent sales and use tax, called the rural public facility tax, that is credited against the state rate, to fund certain public facilities and economic development activities (RCW 82.14.370).

### What is a Rural County?

A “rural county” is a county with a population density of less than 100 persons per square mile or a county smaller than 225 square miles.

For counties imposing the rural public facility tax at a rate of 0.09 percent prior to August 1, 2009, the tax expires 25 years after the tax was first imposed.


■ Rural Counties with the .09% Tax



## Examples of What the Tax has Funded in Counties


### ■ BENTON

Since 2017, Benton County has invested \$10.5 million of .09% Tax revenues directly into important public facilities capital projects serving economic development purposes. A couple of the notable projects include:

- Columbia Gardens (Port of Kennewick & City of Kennewick -- \$1.1 million) – a transformational infill redevelopment that has reinvigorated a previously declining mixed-use district.
-  Vintners Village II (Port of Benton -- \$1.2 million) – a new incubator-type industrial/retail space in Prosser anchoring a development augmenting the wine industry.

### ■ CHELAN


- In 2021, the County created the Cascade Public Infrastructure Fund, a grant program that uses a percentage of the tax revenue for local governments and junior taxing districts.

 The economic development program and related projects have included water systems, industrial buildings on port property, etc. for creating and maintaining jobs and investing in projects that will generate revenue for the county and ensure sustainability.

- Future plans include a project called “Malaga


Mercado,” a partnership with the county, Wenatchee School District, and Latinx community leaders to foster entrepreneurship and create small business in public-owned land in Malaga, as well as improvements to the future Malaga Industrial park.

### ■ FRANKLIN


 Funds municipal water reuse facility where grey water from food processing facilities is cleaned and reused for agricultural irrigation

- Capital improvements to county-owned events center that hosts regional recreation, trade, agricultural and cultural events
- Works with port district to fund major infrastructure projects that attract new business

### ■ GARFIELD

 Port fiber broadband project

### ■ ISLAND

 Repairs to local infrastructure such as the Coupeville Pier

- Enhancement of the Oak Harbor Marina
- Funding for broadband enhancement

## ■ JEFFERSON

- Financing the Tri-area sewer project
- Quilcene fire flow – 100,000 gallon water tank
- Water Street broadband infrastructure
- Rainier Street regional stormwater facility



Fort Warden employee housing

## ■ MASON

- Helps fund sewer improvements
- Supports Belfair Wastewater Water Reclamation System, Debt Service

## ■ PACIFIC

- City of Ilwaco - community center renovation and fire station reconstruction
- City of South Bend - domestic water storage tank replacement and wastewater treatment plant upgrades
- City of Raymond - Willapa Landing dredging



Port of Willapa Harbor - Tokeland Marina water system and South Fork Industrial Park electrical upgrades

- Port of Peninsula – Nachotta Boat Basin commercial pier project
- Port of Ilwaco – boatyard wastewater project and Howerton Way water and sewer line upgrade

## ■ PEND OREILLE



Repaired and updated old building to house extension office and business incubator to assist startup companies develop their businesses

## ■ SKAGIT

- Invested nearly \$5.4 million in fiber optics communications, a large portion of which as for a carrier-grade backbone project led by a port. This early investment gives us an expandable platform to utilize state and federal broadband funding to further expand and provide access to outlying communities and businesses



Investments in public infrastructure to support value-added businesses in the agricultural sector. The county maintains one of the largest and most diverse agricultural communities west of the Cascades. Local farmers produce about \$300 million worth of crops, livestock, and dairy products on 90,000 acres of land, which this sales tax has allowed us to continue to support.

## ■ SKAMANIA



CERB grant match on market and feasibility study for industrial park development

## ■ WALLA WALLA

- Since 2001, the county and port has invested \$14 million on projects to leverage \$75 million in capital investment and jobs, including community college expansion, water system upgrades, downtown revitalization, business recruitment, bridge replacement, and road improvements.

## ■ WHATCOM

- Investments totaling nearly \$2 million over multiple years leveraged more than \$6 million in private contributions to create the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, which provides early childhood education, family and health services, food security, transportation, and other services to a growing but geographically isolated community.
- In 2003, funds contributed to the creation of Point Roberts' only medical clinic. The clinic has proven its value to the community many times over, particularly this past year as the residents have found themselves isolated from the mainland due to border travel restrictions.
- A \$1 million loan to the Bellingham Housing Authority supported the agency's effort to develop the Samish Way urban village project, which will indistinguishably house the full spectrum of incomes. Of the entire project, 75% of the apartments will be for low incomes earners, with a portion of that percentage open to only those earning 30% or less of the area median income (AMI).

## ■ WHITMAN

- A variety of city/county community centers/buildings for incubator business renovations and to promote and enhance economic development



Funding for a runway realignment for our regional airport that serves WSU and our largest employer, Schweitzer Engineer Laboratories

## ■ YAKIMA

- Developed Supporting Investments in Economic Diversification Board to review projects for grants and loans
- Grant and loan funds for water and sewer infrastructure for the Walmart distribution center
- East/West Corridor project connecting Terrace Heights with the City of Yakima, opening up land for future development



The Borton Fruit Warehouse, SOZO sports complex, the Cascade Mill and possibly 100 more projects have been completed since these funds were made available to the county

