

REMARKS TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY, BY SENATOR MARY PANZER, COCHAIRPERSON, SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REMEDIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION, ON MARCH 18, 1996

Good morning. As you know, I am Senator Mary Panzer of the 20th Senate District. I had the pleasure of cochairing the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Remediation of Environmental Contamination.

I hope you each have a copy of Senate Bill 622, which was introduced last Thursday by the Joint Legislative Council on the recommendation of the Special Committee. You should also have a copy of Report No. 14 to the Legislature, which explains the Bill and the background of the Committee study.

This Bill is a housekeeping project that has been needed for a long time. Chapter 144 is excessively long and parts of it are not well-organized. Senate Bill 622 resolves these problems.

The Bill renumbers and reorganizes the environmental statutes, which are now contained in chapters 144, 147, 159 and 162. The Bill separates the current four chapters into 11 new chapters and moves them into the space between chapters 280 and 299.

As you can imagine, there was a great deal of sensitivity among Special Committee members about making any substantive changes in the environmental statutes. The Special Committee agreed that no substantive changes would be made in this draft and to the best of our ability, none have been made. The only amendments in this Bill are cross-reference changes. The relating clause of the Bill is narrowly drafted so that any substantive amendments attempted on the floor would be nongermane. But, more important than that, I have worked with leadership and will continue to do so to make sure that this Bill is passed without substantive amendment.

I want to thank Senator Cowles for scheduling this Bill promptly. I also want to thank Senator Burke for his support as one of the members of the Special Committee. I would ask you to vote favorably on this Bill so it can be moved quickly through the Legislature before the end of the current floorperiod.

If you have any questions, I will be pleased to answer them. Mark Patronsky, Legislative Council Staff, is also here to answer questions.