

**West Virginia Legislature  
Joint Commission on Economic Development  
2013 - 2014 Interims**

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**FINAL REPORT OF**

**JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AND FINANCE**

**January 7, 2014**

In addition to its charge under West Virginia Code 5B-3-1, et seq., Your Joint Commission on Economic Development was assigned the interim study of the following topics during the 2013-2014 legislative interim period:

*SCR 69 – Project Launchpad*

*SCR 77 – Alternative and Renewable Energy Issues*

*Natural Gas Vehicle Conversion Standards*

*Effectiveness, Opportunities and Overview of West Virginia Port Authorities*

During the 2013-2014 legislative interim period, Your Commission met and received information on each of these topics of study, as well as visiting a coal industry mine safety training center, all from the following state agencies, political subdivisions and other sources:

Representatives from the West Virginia Division of Energy; Mountain View Solar; West

Virginia University's National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium; Alternative Fuel Solutions; Compressed Natural Gas Diesels; Alpha Natural Resources; Vision Shared; and the West Virginia Port Authority.

Based on the testimony of all of the above and information submitted, Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

Regarding **SCR 69 -- Project Launchpad**, Your Commission **RECOMMENDS** that during its upcoming regular session, the Legislature continue to examine the Project Launchpad legislation and the impact it may have on state and county revenues and business and job creation.

Regarding **SCR 77 -- Alternative and Renewable Energy Issues**, Your Commission **RECOMMENDS** that the Legislature continue to examine the progress of the Governor's Five-Year Energy Plan, continue to explore the solar energy industry and consider the effectiveness and potential impact of any proposed legislation providing economic incentives to the solar energy industry.

Regarding **Natural Gas Vehicle Conversion Standards**, Your Commission **RECOMMENDS** that during its upcoming regular session, the Legislature continue to examine conversion standards for natural gas vehicles and consider whether any legislation addressing such standards is uniform, practical and not inconsistent with standards already in place.

Regarding the **Effectiveness, Opportunities and Overview of West Virginia Port Authorities**, Your Commission **RECOMMENDS** that during its upcoming regular session, the Legislature continue to examine the effectiveness and importance of West Virginia's port authorities.

Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Williams  
Co-Chairman



Delegate Skaff  
Co-Chairman