Nov. 30, 2011

LegiSchool Town Hall to focus on environmental rules

The next LegiSchool Project Town Hall will consider “California and the Environment: An Examination of Public Policy and Student Perspectives.” It will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in Assembly Committee Room 4202 at the State Capitol.

More than 100 students from Lodi High School, Oakland High School and Grace High School in Santa Rosa will explore proposed environmental legislation and address these questions: Are such laws beneficial and necessary to properly protect California’s environment? Are California’s environmental laws creating an unfriendly business environment? What should the role of government be when it comes to protecting the environment?

A speakers panel – including Sen. Mark DeSaulnier; Assemblyman Ricardo Lara; Tiffany Roberts of the Legislative Analyst's Office; and Panama Bartholomy, deputy director for efficiency and renewable energy, California Energy Commission – will answer questions from students. The event will also be televised live on the California Channel.

Legislative proposals are introduced each year to enact new environmental standards, rules and regulations. Previous proposals have included eliminating the use of plastic bags in grocery stores, restricting the use of foam packaging for food, and requiring companies to list the carbon footprint of their product on the packaging. Critics contend that California has some of the strictest environmental standards in the country and that increasing regulations puts an undue burden on businesses.

The LegiSchool Project is a civic education collaboration between Sacramento State and the State Legislature, administered by the Center for California Studies. The project’s mission is to engage young people in matters of public policy and state government.

For more information, visit www.csus.edu/calst/calendar.html.
For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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