

WEEK of Monday, January 31, 2011

Environmental Community

Hot List for the STATE HOUSE

As you are aware, the environmental community's "Environmental Priorities Coalition" prepares a weekly "Hot List" detailing its positions on up to ten of the **highest** priority issues for the upcoming week. Separate Hot Lists are prepared for the House and Senate and distributed each Monday. If the bill is one of the four environmental community priorities for 2011, it is so designated by the priorities "button" on the right. Please feel free to contact me at clifford@ctassociates.org or 206-369-2235 if you have any questions and we hope you find this communication helpful!

Respectfully,

Clifford R. Traisman, State Lobbyist, Washington Conservation Voters & Washington Environmental Council

HB 1735: Concerning creating clean water jobs through storm water pollution funding. (a.k.a. Clean Water Jobs Act of 2011): *PLEASE PINK SLIP ONTO THE BILL BY NOON TUESDAY*

- Now is the time to create jobs and rebuild Washington's infrastructure. This bill will raise significant new revenue for clean water jobs by imposing a pollution fee upon toxic stormwater contaminants.
- Toxic runoff from our roads and parking lots is the number one water quality problem. A priority for local governments, labor and environmentalists, this polluter-pays bill will generate millions of dollars to help rebuild local economies and clean up polluted waterways from Puget Sound to the Spokane River.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION

HB 1094: Providing a process for county legislative authorities to withdraw from voluntary planning under the growth management act.

Local Government: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- There have been two statewide initiatives to effectively repeal the Growth Management Act, both failed with nearly 60% of Washingtonians rejecting the idea. Washingtonians want to protect their quality of the life and know that the GMA does just that.
- When the counties opted in to planning under the GMA 20 years ago, they knew that they could not opt out later. Changing the rules now creates a slippery slope that weakens the protections communities have been relying on for the last 20 years.

HB 1152: Providing technical assistance to achieve voluntary compliance with water pollution control statutes.

Agriculture and Natural Resources: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- Would unreasonably hamstring state authority to take reasonable enforcement action against water quality violators by limiting Ecology's ability to take preventative action and mandating that in ALL cases violators be offered voluntary compliance opportunities before enforcement occurs.

HB 1186: Concerning Oil Spills.

Environment: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill is designed to ensure that the state is well prepared for a major oil spill. Requires oil companies to invest in state-of-art spill response equipment.
- Provides training and equipment for commercial fishermen so that they can help respond in the event of a spill.

HB 1198: Creating a cause of action for persons who are adversely affected by the judicial review of a decision made under the state environmental policy act.

Environment: Public Hearing

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This bill would impose the specter of financial liability on any community group that is not successful in an appeal under SEPA.
- Shifting the costs of appeal from the developer to the community would significantly chill the public's ability to challenge environmentally damaging projects.

HB 1319: Regarding the safety of certain children's products.

Environment: Possible executive action

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Lead is just the tip of the toxic iceberg when it comes to toys and children's products. Recently, there has been cadmium in Shrek glasses, formaldehyde in baby blankets, toluene in "slime" toys. The law passed by the legislature in 2008 only gives the state the ability to get information from manufacturers on what harmful chemicals might be lurking in their products, but they won't be able to do anything about it.
- The Children's Safe Products bill of 2011 allows the state to ask manufacturers to identify safer alternatives. Once safer alternatives are identified the Department of Ecology would report to the legislature on what further actions may be needed, thus preserving the legislature's authority to restrict or ban chemicals. Finally, this bill gives consumers and the business community certainty as to what the agency will do with the information they receive.

HB 1378: Clarifying that the legislature intends that RCW 90.14.140 to be liberally construed

Agriculture and Natural Resources: Public Hearing

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- The long list of relinquishment exemptions found in RCW 90.14.140 provides flexibility and protection of a water right while also promoting efficient distribution of a finite and precious resource.
- This bill is unnecessary, increases confusion in water law, and may undermine the law's objective of ensuring as many users as possible have a reasonable amount of water for their needs.

HB 1388: Delaying certain changes to the Washington state energy code until April 1, 2012.

Technology, Energy and Communications: Public Hearing

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This legislation is not a "delay" - it annuls the statewide energy efficiency code already in effect and overrides more than two years of work by the State Building Code Council and the public. It will impose significant administrative costs on local governments who are responsible for code compliance and just completed the transition to the existing code.
- The state energy code is the cheapest, most effective long term way to save energy in buildings cost effectively. This bill means owners and occupants of newly constructed buildings will lose substantial energy and cost savings, which, since these buildings will be with us for 50 to 100 years, is not a one-time issue.

HB 1478: Delaying or modifying certain regulatory and statutory requirements affecting cities and counties.

Local Government: Public Hearing & Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This bill will derail the planned adoption of the Phase II Stormwater Permit which is critical for Puget Sound and other polluted waters across the state.
- Last year the legislature delayed the next GMA update for 3 years, with the environmental community's support, in order to help local governments in this economy. This bill, however, will add an extra three years on to every update after this one, starting in 2025. This is unacceptable.

HB 1489: Limiting the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus.

Environment: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Phosphorous from residential lawn fertilizers is a major water quality pollutant that, if not managed, could require local governments to spend millions on wastewater treatment plant upgrades.
- This bill manages the sale of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus and has the support of businesses, local governments, and environmental groups.



Contributing Organizations

American Rivers ▪ Audubon Washington ▪ Climate Solutions ▪ Conservation Northwest ▪ Earth Ministry ▪ Environment Washington
▪ Fuse ▪ Futurewise ▪ Heart of America Northwest ▪ The Lands Council ▪ League of Women Voters of Washington ▪ Lutheran Public
Policy Office ▪ National Wildlife Federation ▪ Nature Conservancy ▪ NW Energy Coalition ▪ People for Puget Sound ▪ Sierra Club
Cascade Chapter ▪ Surfrider Foundation ▪ Transportation Choices Coalition ▪ Washington Conservation Voters ▪ Washington
Environmental Council ▪ Washington Toxics Coalition ▪ Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition ▪ Zero Waste Washington