

WEEK of Monday, January 31, 2011

Environmental Community

# Hot List for the STATE SENATE

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](mailto: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

## SB 5604: Concerning creating clean water jobs through storm water pollution funding. (a.k.a. Clean Water Jobs Act of 2011): *PLEASE WHITE 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.



## SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION

### SB 5110: Concerning carpet stewardship.

**Environment, Water and Energy:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- 145,000 tons of carpet is disposed of every year in Washington. Most of it goes to landfills -- less than three percent of it is ever recycled. This creates a significant burden on county landfills, and is hugely wasteful.
- This bill will establish a carpet stewardship program, which would require carpet manufacturers to establish and pay for a system to collect, transport and recycle old carpet.

### SB 5231: 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.

### SB 5234: Creating a statewide program for the collection, transportation, and disposal of unwanted medicines.

**Health and Long-Term Care:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Help stop the epidemic of abuse and poisonings, and protect our water quality.
- Requires no state funds and removes burden from Sheriffs, police, and local governments. Primarily financed by all drug producers, up to a maximum of about 1 penny for every \$16 of annual medicine sales in Washington

**SB 5253: Concerning landscape conservation and local infrastructure.**

**Government Operations Committee:** Hearing & Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill will empower our cities to make much-needed infrastructure improvements in exchange for working together to conserve potentially hundreds of thousands of acres of working farm and forest land.
- The bill, brought forward by Cascade Land Conservancy, is supported by a broad coalition including the environmental community, various cities & counties, Master Builders Association of King & Snohomish, Weyerhaeuser, etc.

**SB 5266: Providing State Agencies Authority to Improve Permitting Process.**

**Natural Resources and Marine Waters:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- This bill would undermine important permit programs at Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources
- It would greatly reduce site-specific review and enforcement of construction projects.

**SB 5267: Providing fairness in government regulation of property.**

**Government Operations, Tribal Relations, and Elections:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- This bill requires paying developers money if state or local governments regulate uses and activities to protect neighbors and water quality. It would also apply to laws other than land use and environmental laws, since one of the exemptions to the requirement to pay compensation is wage and hour laws.
- Washington voters have twice rejected efforts to condition compliance with common sense land use and environmental laws with a requirement to pay developers. The legislature should follow the will of the voters.

**SB 5424: Concerning integrated resource plans.**

**Environment, Water and Energy:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Rather than simply acknowledging a utility's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) this bill requires the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to either accept or reject a utility's IRP, giving the IRPs considerably more weight in utility resource planning. The bill also requires IRPs to consider state and federal energy legislative policies as one of the factors in determining energy resource costs thereby strengthening environmental review.
- The bill also enables the Dept. of Commerce to recommend, and the State Auditor to pursue, an audit of a public utility to ensure compliance with the IRP law's requirements related to public participation and filing of documents.

**SB 5425: Authorizing rural conservation development demonstration projects.**

**Agriculture and Rural Economic Development:** Hearing & Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- This bill will allow a new "city" in northwest Snohomish County with up to 1,600 housing units. This new city will generate large amounts of traffic as its 3,400 to 3,500 people go about their daily lives. Given its out of the way location, it lacks the transportation facilities needed to accommodate the new traffic and much of the burden will fall on state facilities, such as I-5.
- This new city will transform a rural area into a city, adversely affecting its neighbors who will suffer urban style traffic jams with none of the benefits of being in a city. A big developer will benefit; the small neighboring property owners will suffer. The bill is opposed by many area residents.

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### 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