

WEEK of Monday, February 7, 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 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

SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION

SB 5231: Regarding the safety of certain children's products.

Environment Committee: 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, and toluene in "slime" toys. The law passed in 2008 gives the state the ability to get information from manufacturers on what harmful chemicals are in these products.
- The Children's Safe Products bill of 2011 takes the logical next step and allows the state to ask manufacturers to identify safer alternatives and report back to the legislature on what further actions may be needed to protect children. The striker clarifies the definition of children's products and exempts certain products (forest and paper, food and drugs, and medical devices). It also preserves the legislature's authority to ban or restrict toxic chemicals in children's products.

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 5300: Enhancing the use of Washington natural resources in public buildings.

Natural Resources and Marine Waters: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This legislation rolls back the successful 2005 Environmental Priority on High Performance buildings.
- A 2005 agreement with the timber industry ensured that all wood harvested in Washington is recognized in the state's green building law. This legislation is unnecessary.

SB 5360: Delaying or modifying certain regulatory and statutory requirements affecting cities and counties.

Government Operations and Tribal Relations & Elections: 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. The bill also weakens other laws our communities depend on, like the growth management act and shoreline management act.
- The environmental community understands and appreciates the position our local governments are in. We are asking that Sections 4, 13, 14 and 15 of the bill be removed; we're willing to compromise on the rest of the bill.

SB 5529: Regarding hydraulic project approval.

Natural Resources and Marine Waters: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Eliminates general fund support for HPA program in favor of user fees.
- Provides permit streamlining provisions which may undermine protection of fish habitat.

SB 5536: Regarding the management of water resources.

Environment, Water, and Energy: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill generates revenue for Ecology's Water Management Program and makes a number of needed changes to our water resource management system.
- While the bill needs some improvements, it is an important step forward to modernizing the management of our most precious resource.

SB 5551: Concerning the forestry riparian easement program.

Natural Resources and Marine Waters: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill will implement the commitments made to the Small Forest Landowners as part of the Forests and Fish Act.
- It will provide for the conservation of the some of the best salmon habitat.

SB 5575: Recognizing certain biomass energy facilities as an eligible renewable resource.

Agriculture & Rural Economic Development: Public Hearing

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This bill does not advance the development of new clean energy resources. It amends the definition of renewable resources in I-937 to include black liquor and biomass plants operating in Washington before 1999. Such piecemeal changes to I-937 erode the purpose of I-937 to support new clean energy investment.

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

Ways and Means: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- The most significant jobs creator in front of the legislature, this bill will raise significant new revenue for clean water infrastructure by imposing a pollution fee upon toxic stormwater contaminants.
- Pollution fees are highly popular with the public and are a meaningful way to generate significant revenue.



SB 5607: Establishing a process for the payment of impact fees through provisions stipulated in recorded covenants.

Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance: Public Hearing & Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- Impact fees were created to ensure that in many ways, new growth helps pay its way. SB 5607 makes the impact fee process more expensive and less certain. It requires that developers be allowed to shift paying impact fees from when developers obtain their building permits to when the home buyers buy the home.
- This shift in payment gives counties and cities less time to use that impact fee to make the necessary improvements and means that the public facilities needed to reduce the environmental impacts of growth will be delayed until well after the impacts of development occur.

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