

WEEK of Monday, March 21, 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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION

HB 2008: Regarding the administration of natural resources programs.

General Government Appropriations & Oversight: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This bill reduces environmental protection while combining two types of forestry-related permits and raising fees.
- We are concerned that the agency with the expertise to determine what's needed to protect fish loses its ability to ensure that protection; four-year logging permits weaken the foundation of the state's Forests and Fish Habitat Conservation Plan; and permit fee increases are too small to provide sufficient funding for needed state oversight of logging.

ESSB 5457: Providing a congestion reduction charge to fund the operational and capital needs of transit agencies.

Transportation: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill preserves jobs, reduces congestion, and protects the environment by authorizing King County to impose a temporary congestion reduction charge to provide emergency funding for our critical transit service.
- Transit service faces a funding crisis in Washington State. Plummeting sales tax revenue is forcing transit agencies to slash service despite record-setting ridership.

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

Environment: Public Hearing

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This bill significantly undermines the purpose of I-937 (which is to add NEW clean energy resources to Washington's energy portfolio) because the bill would allow existing (pre-1999) biomass plants to count as qualifying renewable resources.
- If more existing resources are grandfathered into I-937 then fewer new clean energy resources will be developed in Washington, along with fewer new jobs and reduced economic activity.

SB 5730: Authorizing mileage-based automobile insurance.

Business & Financial Services: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT w/ AMENDMENTS*

- This legislation eliminates existing regulatory barriers to offering usage based insurance.
- Do not support his bill unless the committee adopts amendments to address privacy, trade secret protection, and environmental benefits.

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