

April 20, 2011

Environmental Community

Special Budget **Hot List** for the STATE SENATE

Below is the environmental community's request for maintaining critical budget items and addressing the differences between the House and Senate budgets. This Hot List focuses only on those programs most necessary to protect core environmental programs and maintain healthy communities.

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 AND SENATE BUDGETS

This Hot List focuses only on those programs most necessary to protect core environmental programs and maintain healthy communities. We want to express our appreciation to both the House and Senate for preserving Model Toxics Control Account funds for environmental purposes, continuing stormwater funding, and maintaining positive investments in transportation choices: \$40 million for the Regional Mobility Grant program; \$17 million for rural mobility grants; and \$25 million for special needs transportation.

Position on differences between the House and Senate Operating Budget:

- Climate Policy Program in Dept of Ecology: \$1.8 million. *Support Senate Position*
- Water Resources Program at Dept of Ecology: \$4.3 million. *Support House Position*
- Dept of Ecology Administrative reduction: \$1.6 million. *Support House Position*
- Dept of Agriculture's Knotweed Control Program: \$216,000. *Support House Position*
- Dept of Agriculture's Farm-to-School functions within the Domestic Marketing Program. *Support Senate Position*
- Puget Sound Partnership's Invasive Species Control: \$296,000. *Support House Position*
- Puget Sound Partnership's LID/Stormwater assistance: \$130,000. *Support House Position*
- Dept of Natural Resources Administrative funds: \$1.2 million. *Support House Position*
- Energy Office in Dept of Commerce: \$280,000. *Support House Position*
- Growth Management Division in Dept of Commerce's: \$300,000. *Support House Position*
- Provisos in the budgets:
 - Senate position prohibiting state land acquisitions. *Oppose*
 - Senate position requiring Ecology to collaborate with the Conservation Commission on federal grants under the Clean Water Act. *Oppose*
 - House and Senate reducing DNR's Forest and Fish Support Account for nongovernment organizations. *Amount should be \$650,000*

Position on differences between the House and Senate Capital budget:

- \$50 million for Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program. *Support House Position*
- \$85.5 million for the Trust Land Transfer Program. *Support House Position*
- \$6.7 million to avoid forest land conversion. *Support House Position*
- \$2 million for Forest Riparian Easement Program. *Support Senate Position without the use of the Forest and Fish Support account*

Position on differences between the House and Senate Transportation budget:

- Department of Licensing congestion reduction fee for transit funding. *Support House Position*
- Safe routes to school, bicycle and pedestrian safety projects: \$11 million. *Support House Position*

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- Directives to WSDOT to collaborate with affected MPOs, RTPOs, and transit agencies to develop a plan to reduce vehicle trips by the growth at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. *Support House position*
- A report summarizing the status of public transportation systems. \$200,000. *Support Senate Position*
- A Directive to prepare a list of main street projects consistent with SHB 1071 (the Complete Streets bill). *Support Senate Position*

SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION

SB 5862: Regarding the administration of natural resources programs.

Natural Resources & Marine Waters: Possible Executive Session**POSITION: *OPPOSE***

- This bill raises fees but trades away environmental protection, a significant net loss for water and fish.
- Four major issues continue to be a concern: longer logging permits jeopardizing timely, science-based improvements to logging practices on-the-ground; narrowing Fish and Wildlife's jurisdiction and authority for fish habitat protection; eliminating civil authority; and reducing stakeholder involvement in general permits.

SB 5934: Concerning funding and administering the processing of water rights permits and applications.

Ways and Means: Possible Executive Session**POSITION: *OPPOSE***

- Despite the efforts of legislators to develop a fair approach to funding water rights processing, water users have derailed these conversations by proposing drastic changes that would weaken basic policies and protections in state law.
- While this bill requires applicants to pay more of the costs for processing water rights, it also limits the ability for Ecology to review water use, perpetuates confusion on the amount of water in a water right, and impairs junior water users and stream flows.

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