

WEEK of Monday, February 14, 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](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

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION

### **HB 1192: Ensuring the viability of small forest landowners.**

**Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION: *OPPOSE***

- This bill allows the owners of small forest parcels to operate in accordance to the Forest Practices Rules in existence before the adoption of the Forests and Fish Law. This bill creates a critical change in the Forests and Fish law, calling into question the biological opinion.
- The Environmental Community supports HB 1509 which provides Forest Riparian Easements to small forest landowners to compensate them for the disproportionate impact.

### **HB 1370: Creating a statewide program for the collection, transportation, and disposal of unwanted medicines.**

**Environment:** 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.

### **HB 1610: Regarding the management of water resources.**

**Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Possible Executive Session

**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.

### **HB 1622: Authorizing rural conservation development demonstration projects.**

**Local Government:** 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 ~3,000 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 most area residents.

**HB 1700: Modifying the requirements related to designing various transportation projects.**

**Transportation:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill simply allows flexibility for cities, counties and developers to use updated guidelines for designing for bike and pedestrian uses.
- This bill will improve public safety, protect our environment, and promote healthy communities.

**HB 1721: Preventing storm water pollution from coal tar sealants.**

**Environment:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Sealants are used to beautify asphalt surfaces. Coal tar-based sealants contain highly carcinogenic chemicals, but safe, cost-effective alternatives are readily available and widely used in Washington.
- This bill will protect public health by banning the use of the highly-polluting coal tar sealants on playgrounds and parking lots.

**HB 1735: Concerning creating clean water jobs through storm water pollution funding (a.k.a. Clean Water Jobs Act of 2011).**

**Ways and Means:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- The most significant jobs creator in front of the legislature, this bill will raise new revenue for clean water infrastructure by imposing a pollution fee upon oil, pesticides and other toxic stormwater contaminants.
- Billions of dollars are needed to address toxic runoff. Pollution fees are a fair and publicly popular solution that would fund projects that will reduce flooding and improve our communities.



**HB 1785: Phasing out the use of copper-based antifouling paints.**

**Environment:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Phases out the use of copper antifouling paints on boats which are a significant source of pollution in Puget Sound.
- Encourages the use of salmon safe alternatives which are now available.

**HB 1806: Concerning construction and industrial storm water general permits.**

**Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- This bill is in conflict with the federal Clean Water Act.
- Weakens standards on industrial stormwater permits and will result in delay and litigation.

**HB 1886: Implementing recommendations of the Ruckelshaus Center process.**

**Local Government:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Implements the agreement worked out between the counties and agricultural and environmental interests after 3.5 years of negotiations at the Ruckelshaus Center. All parties are supporting an amendment to make technical fixes to the bill.
- Creates an alternative to the GMA for protecting critical areas and maintaining ag viability, by creating a voluntary stewardship program.

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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