

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Environmental Community

Budget Hot List for the STATE HOUSE & SENATE

Below is the most comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of the environmental budget priority and our request for what should be in the final budget in order to meet the baseline level of funding necessary to protect core environmental programs and maintain healthy communities. For clarity sake, we've divided our comments by budget (Operating, Capital, and Transportation).

Please feel free to contact me at clifford@wcvoters.org or 206-369-2235 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Clifford R. Traisman, State Lobbyist, Washington Conservation Voters & Washington Environmental Council

SUMMARY

We urge you to include the following in your final budget:

- Support funding to critical programs outlined by the environmental community and as included in the House Operating Budget (list of core programs detailed below);
- Reject \$10.5 million cut to natural resources programs in Senate Operating Budget;
- Keep the funding in the Model Toxics Control Account intact and working to clean up toxic spills in Washington;
- Support the commonsense Clean Water Act of 2010 (HB 3181/SB 6851) proposal in your revenue solutions;
- Oppose the renewable energy tax credit rollback in the Senate revenue package.
- Support the Senate on ending the tax break for TransAlta's Centralia coal plant.

SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET

HOUSE: PROS

We strongly support the following components of the House Supplemental Operating Budget:

- We commend the House for restoring funding for all of the core environmental protections identified as top priorities by the Environmental Priorities Coalition's 2010 budget priority (listed below).
- Maintaining the critical Model Toxics Control Funds for toxic cleanup sites across the state.
- Assumption of revenue from Water application fees (HB 2591) and increase of Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) fees (HB 3037) to reduce these programs' reliance on general fund dollars.

SENATE: PROS

We support the following components of the Senate Supplemental Operating Budget:

- Inclusion of several of the core environmental protection programs identified as top priorities for restoration by the Environmental Priorities Coalition (listed below). We urge the Senate to adopt to House funding for these critical programs in final budget negotiations.
- Restoring the Model Toxics Control Fund for toxic cleanups by not transferring to the General Fund.
- Assumption of revenue from Water application fees (SB 6267) and increase of Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) fees (SB 6448) to reduce these programs' reliance on general fund dollars. We urge you to enact these bills into law.
- Ending a tax break for TransAlta's Centralia coal plant.

SENATE: CONS

We oppose the following components of the Senate Supplemental Operating Budget:

- The \$10.5 million cut to State Parks, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and Dept. of Natural Resources to compensate for not consolidating the three agencies into the Dept of Natural Resources.
- Reduction of \$1,000,000 to the Growth Management Division in Department of Commerce. These funds are the foundation for an agreement on the GMA delay bill (SB 6611) and without this base level of support the environmental community will not support SB 6611.
- Rollback of renewable tax credits. The clean energy tax credit is a key tool in developing the renewable energy sector in our state.

LIST OF CORE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

We urge the Senate to amend to House funding for these critical programs in final budget negotiations.

	Senate	House
Hazardous Waste Cleanup, DOE	FUNDED	FUNDED
Solid Waste Cleanup, DOE	FUNDED	FUNDED
Toxic Cleanup, DOE	FUNDED	FUNDED
Air Quality Activities, DOE	FUNDED	FUNDED
Water Quality Cleanups, DOE	FUNDED	FUNDED
Water Quality Monitoring, DOE	FUNDED	FUNDED
Environmental Health Programs, Dept Health	FUNDED	FUNDED
Shorelands Water Supply DOE	FUNDED	FUNDED
Local Watershed Planning, DOE	FUNDED	FUNDED
Water Resources activities, DOE	CUT \$528,000	FUNDED
Natural Heritage Program, DNR	FUNDED	FUNDED
Wildlife disease monitoring, WDFW	CUT \$108,000	FUNDED
Scientific assistance for salmon, WDFW	CUT \$670,000	FUNDED
Salmon recovery data coordination, RCO	FUNDED	FUNDED
Biodiversity Council, RCO	FUNDED	FUNDED
Growth Management Division, Commerce	CUT \$1,000,000	FUNDED
Implementation of wind power guidelines, WDFW	CUT \$540,000	FUNDED
Wildlife land management, WDFW	CUT 316,000	FUNDED

SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGET**HOUSE: PROS**

We strongly support the following components of your Supplemental Capital Budget:

- Inclusion of \$54 million from Clean Water Act of 2010 (Working for Clean Water), HB 3181.
- Inclusion of \$200 million appropriation for the JOBS Act of 2010 (HB 2561/SB 6547).

HOUSE: CONS

We ask that you restore this item as you make your final budget decisions:

- Restore Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda and the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan implementation funds, Puget Sound Partnership: \$10,000,000

SENATE: PROS

We strongly support the following components of your Supplemental Capital Budget:

- Inclusion of \$42.5 million from Clean Water Act of 2010 (Working for Clean Water), SB 6851.
- Inclusion of new funding for projects to clean up Puget Sound.

SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

HOUSE: PROS

- We strongly support the House action to restore and redirect the \$14 million back to regional mobility grants.

SENATE: CONS

- We urge the Senate to amend to House funding in budget negotiations and redirect \$14 million back to regional mobility grants. State Transportation budget dedicates less than 1% of its funding to transit. The Senate transportation budget takes away much of the remaining state funding in the regional mobility grant program for transit.

REVENUE

We support the following components in the legislature's final revenue package:

- Include the Clean Water Act of 2010 (HB 3181/SB 6851) to clean up stormwater pollution throughout the state.
- End the tax break for TransAlta's Centralia coal plant.
- Restore renewable energy tax credit. The clean energy tax credit is a key tool in developing the renewable energy sector in our state.

Contributing Organizations

American Rivers ▪ Audubon Washington ▪ Cascade Bicycle Club ▪ 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 Citizens for
Resource Conservation Washington Conservation Voters ▪ Washington Environmental Council ▪ WashPIRG ▪ Washington Toxics
Coalition ▪ Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition