

Thursday, March 10, 2010

Environmental Community

Special Supplemental Hot List for the STATE HOUSE

We hope you find this communication helpful in making your decision on ESHB 3181, the Clean Water Act of 2010, when it comes to a Floor vote. 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

POSSIBLE HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

ESHB 3181: The Clean Water Act of 2010 funding cleanup of water pollution and other programs necessary for the health and well-being of Washington citizens through an increase in the hazardous substance tax.

POSITION: *SUPPORT STRIKER*

- Striking amendments sponsored primarily by Representative Springer are a compromise for raising critical new revenue to clean up stormwater pollution. The striker eliminates the general fund allocation that was in the original bill, adds in an export tax credit (sought by the oil companies) and would increase the Hazardous Substance Tax by .85 percent, generating \$100 million per year.
- Contrary to oil company assertions, the Hazardous Substance Tax is constitutional. The tax has been in place for 20 years and has never been challenged. Constitutional law expert Hugh Spitzer has issued a legal opinion that concludes without reservation the tax is NOT a gas tax covered by the 18th amendment of the state constitution. This conclusion is supported by a 2001 Attorney General opinion.
- This bill is a substantial win in tough times for jobs, the environment, and local economies. Thousands of construction jobs will be created across the state for clean water infrastructure work.



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