

Clean Fertilizers, Healthier Lakes and Rivers

HB 1489 | SB 5194 Prime Sponsors: Rep. Andy Billig and Sen. Scott White

Clean Fertilizers, Healthier Lakes and Rivers

- Cleaning up our lakes and rivers
- Saving business and local government millions
- Beautiful yards and clean rivers
- A common sense and cost-effective approach



Phosphorus in Lawn Fertilizer Harms our Lakes and Rivers

We have a responsibility to keep our lakes and rivers clean and healthy for ourselves and our children. When phosphorus in fertilizer washes off of our lawns into lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound, it causes pollution that costs taxpayers and businesses millions of dollars to clean up. Excess phosphorus in our waterways causes rapid growth of weeds and algae blooms that can harm fish, wildlife and public health. Lake Spokane/Spokane River, Lake Whatcom, Lake Vancouver, Lake Washington and hundreds of other precious waterways across our state are polluted from too much phosphorus.

Reducing Phosphorus Pollution will Save Us Millions

Our businesses and local governments have spent millions on wastewater treatment upgrades to control their phosphorus discharge. Additional upgrades will cost millions more yet do little to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our waterways. Managing the sale of phosphorus lawn fertilizer costs almost nothing. It will save money and jobs, and clean up our lakes and rivers; a win-win for our economy and the environment.

Beautiful Yards and Clean Rivers

You don't need phosphorous in your fertilizer to have a green lawn; there are better, cheaper alternatives that give all of us the freedom to have a beautiful yard and clean rivers. Many other states already manage phosphorus in lawn fertilizers. Lawn care companies and golf courses in those states, as well as other businesses that depend on green grass, say removing it has not been a problem. For those special cases where the use of phosphorus in your lawn fertilizer is absolutely necessary, this bill allows you to get a prescription to buy it.



A Common Sense and Cost-Effective Approach

Why should we continue wasting money and harming the environment by using fertilizer with phosphorus on our lawns? Managing the sale of phosphorus lawn fertilizers in our state is a commonsense and cost effective approach to making sure that our lakes and rivers are clean and we're not forcing our businesses and local governments to waste money on unnecessary infrastructure.

About the Environmental Priorities Coalition

Founded in 2003, the Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of 24 leading environmental groups in Washington who believe we can have a strong economy and a clean, healthy and safe environment for ourselves and our children.

For more information, visit www.environmentalpriorities.org