

The Clean Water Act of 2010: *Working for Clean Water*

HB 3181/ SB 6851 Prime Sponsors: Rep. Timm Ormsby, Sen. Ed Murray

The Working for Clean Water proposal is a balanced solution for Washington's families, local communities, and our environment in these tough economic times. It will create jobs, provide support to the state's basic services, and immediately address the biggest water pollution problem in the state.

Stormwater pollution: A shared priority

- **Contaminated stormwater runoff is the number one water pollution problem in the state.** Local governments need to be able to complete required infrastructure and retrofit projects now if we are to pass a cleaner Puget Sound and Spokane River on to our children. Time is running out to meet our shared goal of restoring Puget Sound by 2020.
- **This will help rebuild our economy and protect ratepayers.** Local governments don't have the resources to complete required clean water projects, forcing them to consider higher property taxes and utility rates. Washington's families can't afford to shoulder the entire cost of pollution cleanup - we need a more balanced approach that asks polluters to pay their share.



A balanced solution: the Hazardous Substance Tax

Washington voters approved a tax on hazardous substances to clean up toxic pollution over 20 years ago (I-97 in 1987). It is levied upon substances that are the most significant stormwater pollutants: petroleum, pesticides, and toxic chemicals. **Extending the tax to cover stormwater pollution cleanup and the state's basic services is a responsible solution that reflects our shared values.**



Creating jobs

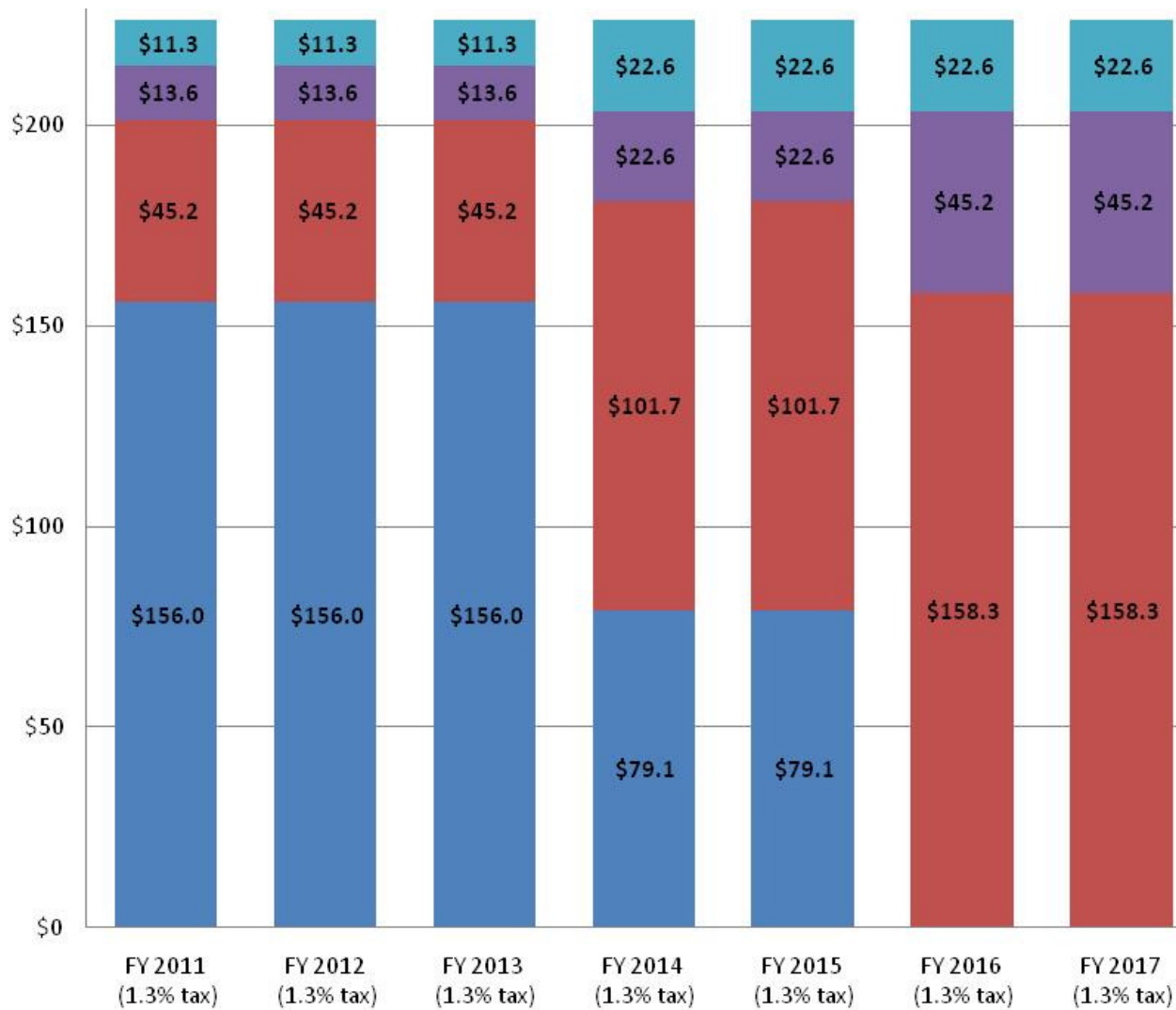
The unemployment rate for our construction industry is a staggering 27%. The Working for Clean Water bill will directly fund millions each year in local construction projects to clean up pollution in stormwater. Retrofitting urban streets in Bremerton. Digging storm ponds to collect polluted water in Ferndale. Building better storm drains in Puyallup. Funding labor-intensive projects like these will create thousands of jobs to help get Washington working again.

About the proposal

Increasing the tax from 7/10ths of one percent to just two percent raises \$225 million/year. By allocating the bulk of the dollars (\$600 million over 5 years) to the general fund in the near term and transitioning back to clean water purposes over time, we accomplish the triple bottom line: avoiding immediate cuts to core services, funding local governments' obligations, and providing a clean water legacy we will be proud of for generations. **Supported by the entire coalition of education, health care, and social services groups unified behind solutions to maintain core public services.**

KEY FACTS ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL:

- Increases the Hazardous Substance tax from 7/10ths of one percent to two percent.
- Funds a substantial investment in the general fund through the next biennium (\$626 million over 5 years).
- Makes an initial “down payment” on local stormwater funding, with a transition from the general fund allocation after 2013.
- Funds WSDOT stormwater costs (\$11.3 million/year until 2014, then increases to \$22.6 million)
- Fully funds Oil Spill Prevention/Response and other targeted clean water investments.
- Administration of local government stormwater funding is through a competitive grant process.



Dollars in millions

- **General Fund**
- **Stormwater funding for local governments**
- **Clean water account/ Oil spill prevention/ Puget Sound Partnership**
- **WSDOT stormwater costs**