

WEEK of Monday, April 13, 2009

Environmental Community

Hot List for the STATE SENATE

For the seventh year in a row, the environmental community will be sending legislators and key stakeholders its weekly Environmental Community “Hot List” detailing positions on no more than ten of the highest priority issues for the upcoming week. Separate Hot Lists will be prepared for the House and Senate and distributed each Monday via email and in hard copy to your office. At the end of the document, you will find a list of environmental community organizations that contributed to the Hot List. We hope you find this communication helpful. 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

SENATE FLOOR ACTION

HB 1456: Preventing the conversion of certain natural resource lands

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- No one has testified in opposition to this bill in either chamber.
- HB 1456 would prevent new fully contained communities from being developed on natural resource lands, helping to reduce the pressure to urbanize these working lands.

ESHB 1571: Regarding the adjudication of water rights.

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Adjudication is a critical tool for understanding how much water is actually used in a basin and the amount of water available. Unfortunately, only a small fraction of water rights in Washington have been adjudicated, leaving the state unable to adequately manage its rivers and streams.
- This bill modernizes the adjudication process, promotes efficiency, and provides certainty for water users.

SHB 1614: Reducing the amount of petroleum pollution in stormwater. (a.k.a. Invest in Clean Water).

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- As the conversation around the state budget intensifies, there is growing momentum behind this bill as an immediate, substantive and achievable win for the environment, jobs and local governments.
- By imposing a fee on petroleum products that contribute to stormwater pollution, this bill would raise over \$100 million in new funds that can be used for improved water quality in Puget Sound and across Washington. This polluter-pays approach could fund job-creating infrastructure projects in every district in the state.



SHB 2010: Concerning state funding for local projects.

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- The state capital budget spends billions of dollars on infrastructure that if not spent properly could make it more difficult to achieve the greenhouse gas reductions required by state law.
- This bill requires that the State consider these greenhouse gas reduction targets when allocating infrastructure funds.

SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION

E2SHB 1009: Extending the expiration dates for existing sales and use tax exemptions related to certain electricity generation.

Ways & Means: Possible executive action

POSITION: *SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS*

- Please extend the tax exemption for renewable projects for all parties and not just for qualifying utilities of I-937. This extension is the critical element to the I-937 compromise parties agreed to.
- This key sales and use tax exemptions for renewable energy projects in WA state creates jobs, strengthens local communities, and positions Washington to be a leader in the green economy. It is for projects big and small, benefits communities as well as developers.

2SHB 1481: Regarding electric vehicles.

Ways & Means: Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Passed out of the House 71-23. Promotes the use of electric vehicles through the creation of an electric infrastructure that will support the use of electric vehicles. This approach was recommended by the Governor's Climate Advisory Team (CAT) and will spur economic development while reducing emissions.
- One element of the bill is to promote having the state motor pool switch to electric vehicles in the future and to provide electric infrastructure at all of the state owned motor pool lots.

SSB 5161: Extending tax incentives for renewable resources, including tidal and wave energy.

Ways & Means: Possible executive action

POSITION: *SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS*

- This is another vehicle for the extension of the states tax exemption. Abundant, affordable, environmentally responsible and diverse energy supply underlies Washington's economic and environmental health. It creates jobs, strengthens local communities, and positions Washington to be a leader in the green economy.
- Please extend the tax exemption for renewable projects for all parties and not just for qualifying utilities of I-937. This extension is key to the I-937 compromise parties agreed to.

Contributing Organizations

American Rivers ▪ Audubon Washington ▪ Climate Solutions ▪ Conservation Northwest ▪ Earth Ministry ▪ Environment Washington
Fuse ▪ Futurewise ▪ Heart of America Northwest ▪ League of Women Voters of Washington ▪ Lutheran Public Policy Office
National Wildlife Federation ▪ Nature Conservancy ▪ NW Energy Coalition ▪ People for Puget Sound ▪ Sierra Club ▪ 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