

Wednesday, April 16, 2009

Environmental Community

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL HOT LIST for the STATE HOUSE

This is a SPECIAL State House Hot List for Thursday, April 16, 2009. SSB 5840, the bill to amend I-937, the Clean Energy Initiative, is set for Floor action today. We cannot support this bill if ANY substantive amendments are added.

If you have any questions about the Hot List, please contact me.

Thank you.

Clifford Traisman,
State Lobbyist
Washington Conservation Voters
Washington Environmental Council

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

ESSB 5840: Modifying I-937 the citizen's clean energy initiative.

POSITION: *SUPPORT* w/o ANY substantive amendments AND in conjunction with commitment to extend renewable sales tax exemption (yes, this compromise is *that* delicate).

- Please do not pass any amendments to the bill; other than technical ones offered by Chair John McCoy. The bill is a carefully constructed compromise between the environmental community and many utilities and businesses interests.
- The environmental community will support this compromise if it is coupled with the extension of the sales and use tax exemption for renewables as agreed to in the Governor's Office with key industry stakeholders.
- Two individual utilities are seeking changes, probably to change the law's "Cost Cap". The cost cap for slow growing utilities in the bill works. The impact of changes to this provision are unknown and could be very damaging. If an amendment to change this cost cap hangs on the bill, we urge you to oppose the bill in its entirety.
- In exchange for the concessions/changes to Washington's renewable portfolio standard that we agreed to, the Governor proposed extending Washington's sales and use tax exemption for construction of renewable energy projects by 75 percent through July 2013 and 50 percent through July 2020. The bill to implement this language is currently in the Senate. The Governor; and House and Senate leadership agree that final passage of SB 5840 in the Senate should not take place until extension of the Sales Tax Exemption is secured.
- Together these two policy proposals strike a balance among issues and between many stakeholders. While they represent a reduction in Washington's overall renewable energy goals, if they remain linked, they represent an honest attempt to foster continued investment in Washington's effort to diversify its renewable energy portfolio; and create new economic opportunity for Washington's natural resource based communities.

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