

WEEK of Monday, April 20, 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

2SHB 1481: Regarding electric vehicles.

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 5282: Regarding the use of bisphenol A.

POSITION: *SUPPORT* and *OPPOSE ALL WEAKENING AMENDMENTS*

- The Safe Baby Bottle bill (SSB 5282) protects children's health by banning the toxic chemical—bisphenol A (BPA)—in baby bottles and sippy cups.
- While Wal-Mart already sells BPA-free baby bottles and sippy cups, they are seeking a gutting amendment that would establish a "de-minimus level" of 3000 ppb for BPA, which would allow them to sell other allegedly "BPA-free" baby bottles and sippy cups that still contained a dangerous level of BPA. Please oppose this and other amendments that will weaken this legislation.

2SSB 5433: Local options tax provisions.

POSITION: *CONCUR*

- This bill provides the only new funding options for local transit systems to avoid potential massive cuts in service. Transit systems around the state are seeing double-digit ridership increases while also suffering double-digit losses in sales tax revenue.
- The bill allows King County to leverage existing local ferry district authority for Metro Transit and allows other local transit systems around the state to *submit for voter approval* a \$20 annual license tab fee.

ESSB 5583: Improving the effectiveness of water bank and exchange provisions.

POSITION: *CONCUR*

- A water bank, administered through the Trust Water Rights Program, is a mechanism that provides flexibility for supplying water to instream and out-of-stream demands and protects a water right holder from relinquishment while the water is managed through the bank.
- This bill clarifies how a water bank operates and provides a consistent statewide system for managing banked water.

E2SSB 5854: Reducing climate pollution in the built environment (a.k.a. Efficiency First).

POSITION: *CONCUR*

- This bill has will reduce greenhouse gas pollution reduction by 30 million metric tons through 2020. Please concur with this important policy and get the bill to the Governor's desk to sign.



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