

WEEK of Monday, April 6, 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](mailto: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 COMMITTEE ACTION

### **E2SHB 1009: Modifying existing sales and use tax exemptions related to certain electricity generation.**

**Ways & Means:** Possible executive action

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS*

- This bill extends key sales and use tax exemptions for renewable energy projects in WA state. 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.

### **E2SHB 1747: Reducing climate pollution in the built environment (a.k.a. Efficiency First).**

**Ways & Means:** Possible public hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill has considerable cost-effective greenhouse gas pollution reduction. Please pass this important policy and get the bill to the Governor’s desk to sign.
- This modest investment by the state is included in the House Operating budget and will save the public and private sector money through savings in utility bills, will stimulate our economy, improve our buildings, create jobs in energy efficiency services, and increase accountability that will help WA receive additional federal stimulus dollars.



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

**Ways & Means:** Possible executive action

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS*

- This bill extends key sales and use tax exemptions for renewable energy projects in WA state. This is key to spurring renewable energy development in WA, generating money for local governments, and creating good green jobs.
- Please add wind generation back as an eligible renewable, and reinstate the tax exemption for all parties, not just utilities that qualify for I-937.

**SSB 5518: Reducing the amount of petroleum pollution in stormwater. (a.k.a. Invest in Clean Water).**

**Ways & Means:** Possible Executive Action

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- As the conversation around the state budget intensifies, there is growing momentum behind this bill as an immediate, real and substantive 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.



**SB 6145: Authorizing the siting of a master planned location for major auctioneering activity.**

**Ways & Means:** Possible Executive Action

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- This bill seeks to get around existing local protections through statutory spot-zoning. This decision should be decided at the county level, not state.
- Locating these uses in or near an urban growth area with adequate public facilities and services will reduce demands on state revenues during a time when these revenues are declining.

**SENATE FLOOR ACTION**

**HB 1456: Preventing the conversion of certain natural resource lands.**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Fully contained communities are threatening working lands and rural communities all over Washington. The 2007 Census of Agriculture reports that WA loses an acre of farmland every seven minutes.
- 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. The bill won't apply to any existing or current applications.

**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.

**EHB 1967: Relating to prohibiting urban growth area expansions in one hundred year floodplains.**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- In the last two years, Washington saw extreme flooding events from Whatcom to Clark Counties, threatening lives & property and causing over \$1 billion worth of damage to the state.
- The bill prevents future communities from being put in harm's way and reduces unnecessary costs to the state and taxpayers.

**SHB 2010: Concerning state funding for local projects.**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- By 2020, the state must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels. 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 state infrastructure funds be spent in ways that will help the state achieve its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

**HB 2129: Regarding the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard.**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- The emissions performance standard passed in 2006 sets limits on the amount of greenhouse gas pollution emitted through electricity generation. The law's intent is clear: to prevent more dirty coal plants and other high emitting resources from serving Washington's needs.
- This legislation closes loop holes that otherwise would threaten to un-do the standards and allow dirty resources from out of state to be used in Washington.

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**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