

WEEK of Monday, February 16, 2009

Environmental Community

# Hot List for the STATE HOUSE

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

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION

**HB 1133: Modifying provisions of chapter 19.285 RCW, the energy independence act.**

**Technology, Energy & Communications:** Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Washington's Initiative 937 that was passed by voters to require the state's major utilities to diversify their electricity supply by gradually increasing the amount of new renewable resources and acquiring all cost-effective energy conservation resources.
- This bill allows modifications that are narrow in scope, and address implementation barriers based on feedback in a stakeholder process convened by Chairman McCoy. This bill maintains the law's overall intended impact.

**SHB 1165: Providing safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources.**

**General Government Appropriations Committee:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Reduces risks of accidental poisonings, drug diversion, and contamination of surface and ground water by requiring drug producers to provide residents with a secure and convenient statewide program for disposing unwanted and left-over prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines.
- Budget-neutral to the State. The drug producers set up and pay for the program, and a fee paid by the producers recovers agency oversight costs.

**HB 1266: Regarding sufficient cause for the nonuse of water**

**HB 1267: Clarifying that the legislature intends that RCW 90.14.140 be liberally construed.**

**HB 1268: Concerning the relinquishment of a water right.**

**HB 1269: Defining "crop rotation" for the purposes of RCW 90.14.140(1)(k).**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE ALL FOUR BILLS*

- Water is a limited and publicly owned resource that is asked to meet many demands. Water policies must fairly balance multiple needs for critical fish habitat, agriculture, industry, and use in our homes.
- These four bills weaken or remove the long-standing principle that water users relinquish the right to water that has not been used for five or more years. Undermining this principle encourages water hoarding and financial speculation and may seriously impact to the rights of other water users.

**HB 1334: Concerning water resource management on the Columbia and Snake rivers.**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:** Executive Session

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- This bill is inconsistent with the Columbia River Management Program, which requires that conservation and other management tools benefit both instream flows and out-of-stream uses, by unilaterally amending statutory language that was agreed to in 2006 by both agricultural and environmental communities. The bill also raises serious legal questions by retroactively eliminating relinquishment, which may impact the rights of other water users.
- Although water conservation should be encouraged, it is not in the public interest to reduce the benefits of conservation by irrigating new land in dry areas of the state, increasing water demand unnecessarily, and reducing flows in already burdened rivers and streams.

**HB 1481: Regarding electric vehicles.**

**Technology, Energy & Communications Committee:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- 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.

**HB 1490: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements (a.k.a. Transit Oriented Communities; Rep. Nelson, Prime Sponsor).**

**Local Government & Housing Committee:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT Nelson Substitute*

- One of the four environmental priorities for 2009, the bill incorporates climate change consideration into land use and transportation planning, helping to significantly reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions and pollution of Puget Sound by accommodating future population growth with minimal environmental impacts.
- The proposed substitute addresses many stakeholder concerns and is still a work in progress. The bill includes strong protections increasing housing affordability and mitigating displacement in communities closest to major transit stations.



**PSHB 1614: Reducing the amount of petroleum pollution in stormwater (a.k.a. Invest in Clean Water; Rep. Ormsby, Prime Sponsor).**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:** Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- One of the four environmental priorities for 2009, this bill would raise new money for clean water infrastructure by imposing a fee on petroleum products that contribute to stormwater pollution.
- This polluter-pays fee will be spent on stormwater projects throughout the entire the State of Washington, not just in Puget Sound.



**HB 1747: Reducing climate pollution in the built environment (a.k.a. Efficiency First; Rep. Rolfes, Prime Sponsor)**

**Technology, Energy and Communications Committee:** Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill requires super efficient energy codes, disclosure of buildings' energy use scores to prospective buyers, makes our public buildings models of energy efficiency, and provides financing energy-saving upgrades to existing buildings. Washington.
- Please maintain the upfront finance sections for energy efficiency. It is key to robust funding at local levels that is replicable and sustainable.



WEEK OF February 16, 2009

**HB 1819: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (a.k.a. Cap and Invest; Rep. Dave Upthegrove, Prime Sponsor).**

**Ecology and Parks Committee:** Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill moves forward with implementing a cap on global warming pollution, to enable Washington to achieve the emission limits enacted by the Legislature last year.
- Discussions continue around the bill, which is a work in progress. It is important to continue moving forward this year toward meeting our climate goals, and this bill is the foundation of the state's overall strategy.



**HB 2180: Concerning sales and use tax exemptions for certain plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.**

**Technology, Energy & Communications Committee:** Public Hearing and possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Several major car manufacturers are scheduled to have plug-in hybrid electric vehicles hitting the market in the next twelve months. These vehicles, which can go more than 40 miles on a single battery charge, will help significantly reduce global warming pollution from the transportation sector.
- This tax incentive makes sense because it will help put more of these climate-friendlier vehicles on the road sooner, which, in turn, helps the state achieve its greenhouse gas reduction targets more quickly.

---

**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