

WEEK of Monday, February 23, 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 or 206-369-2235, if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Clifford R. Traisman, State Lobbyist, Washington Conservation Voters & Washington Environmental Council

HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION

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

General Government Appropriations Committee: Possible executive session

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.

PSHB 1180: Regarding the use of bisphenol A.

General Government Appropriations Committee: Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- The Safe Baby Bottle bill (HB 1180) protects children's health by banning the toxic chemical—bisphenol A (BPA)—in baby bottles, sippy cups and other food containers kids use.
- Wal-Mart, Toys ‘R’ Us, Whole Foods, and Safeway Stores have announced that they will stop stocking BPA containing products for babies. Nalgene, Camelbak, and Playtex and others have announced that they will stop making products with BPA. A small investment in prevention will help protect children's health and the environment for the future. The \$47,000 for the 09-11 biennium is for the Department of Ecology and the Attorney General to enforce the ban. The funds would be taken from the state toxics account, which is a dedicated fund used for pollution prevention and cleanup.

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

General Government Appropriations Committee: Possible Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Washington State cannot afford to continue sprawling in a low density pattern. It is too costly for taxpayers to expand urban services to pave over the state’s rural and resource lands.
- The Transit-Oriented Communities bill incorporates climate change consideration into land use and transportation planning, helping to increase transportation choices, reduce traffic congestion, save taxpayer dollars, and significantly reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The bill has no immediate fiscal impact to the state.



WEEK OF February 23, 2009

SHB 1614: Reducing the amount of petroleum pollution in stormwater (a.k.a. Invest in Clean Water; Rep. Ormsby, Prime Sponsor).**Capital Budget:** Hearing and Possible Executive Session.**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- One of four environmental priorities for 2009, this bill would provide a solution to part of the State's budget crisis by raising \$100 million in new funds that can be used for water quality infrastructure and to offset over \$35 million originally allocated for stormwater projects in the Governor's proposed budget.
- This bill is carefully crafted as a fee (not a tax) on petroleum products that contribute to stormwater pollution. This polluter-pays approach would provide new money for jobs and would relieve financial pressure on cash-strapped local governments which are obligated under federal law to fund stormwater mitigation projects.

**HB 1747: Reducing climate pollution in the built environment (a.k.a. Efficiency First; Rep. Rolfe, Prime Sponsor).****Ways and Means Committee:** Possible Public Hearing**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Supported by AIA Washington, many Architects and other businesses around the State, this job creator will assert Washington's regional and national clean-energy leadership by putting efficiency first by promoting super-efficient, low-energy-use buildings.
- 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.

**SHB 1819: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (a.k.a. Cap and Invest; Rep. Dave Upthegrove, Prime Sponsor).****General Government Appropriations Committee:** Public Hearing and Possible Executive Session**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill moves forward with implementing a cap on global warming pollution starting in 2012, and convenes a group to look at the "invest" component and bring recommendations back to the Legislature. It enables Washington to achieve the emission limits enacted by the Legislature last year.
- Negotiations with many reasonable business interests are ongoing. A new University of Oregon study issued this past week estimated the costs of unmitigated climate change to Washington State at \$3.8 billion/year by 2020, including costs related to human health impacts and harm to the agriculture and forestry industries. 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.

**HOUSE FLOOR ACTION****HB 1653: Clarifying the integration of the shoreline management act policies with the growth management act.****POSITION:** *SUPPORT THE SIMPSON SUBSTITUTE*

- This bill would eliminate the confusion caused by a Supreme Court decision about how the state's shorelands are governed. The bill creates no new protections, it simply clarifies how and when existing protections apply on the state's shorelands.
- WA State Association of Counties, Association of WA Cities, WA Ports Association, environmental organizations, and Departments of Ecology and CTED support the substitute offered by Rep. Simpson.

HB 1967: Prohibiting urban growth area expansions in one hundred year floodplains.**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- With limited exceptions, this bill will prohibit further urbanization of Western Washington's floodplains. The bill only applies to future expansions of urban areas into the floodplains of the state's largest rivers.
- From Skagit to Lewis Counties, extreme flood events are threatening lives and property and damaging the environment. This bill is trying to prevent future communities from being put in harm's way.

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