

**WEEK of Monday, February 9, 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 Committee:** Public Hearing

**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.

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

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

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- This bill would allow agricultural water users to consume more water by transferring conserved water to new irrigated acreage. Although water conservation should be encouraged, it should not be used to further draw down already burdened rivers and streams.
- This bill undermines the Columbia River Management Program by unilaterally amending statutory language that was agreed to in 2006 by both agricultural and environmental communities.

### **HB 1469: Establishing the product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights.**

**Environmental Health Committee:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Creates a producer-provided recycling program for CFLs and other mercury-containing lights from residents, small businesses and small school districts. The program will properly handle the mercury while also bolstering consumer confidence in using energy-efficient lights that reduce greenhouse gases.
- Budget-neutral to the State. A fee paid by producers of mercury-containing lights recovers agency oversight costs.

### **HB 1482: Concerning reclaimed water permitting.**

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

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill requires the Department of Ecology and the Department of Health to work together to develop comprehensive rules for using treated wastewater from homes, agricultural, or industrial activities for specific purposes.
- We support the directive to Ecology and DOH to draft rules that authorize the use of sufficiently treated water to increase flows in streams, recharge aquifers, and reduce water demand.

**HB 1490: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements (a.k.a. Transit-Oriented Communities, Rep. Sharon 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 preventing displacement in communities closest to the 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: Public Hearing**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- One of the four environmental priorities for 2009, this bill would raise \$100 million for clean water by imposing a fee on petroleum products that contribute to stormwater pollution.
- This polluter-pays fee on oil companies will provide money for new jobs, relieve financial pressure on local governments, and promote new economic stimulus.



**HB 1653: Clarifying the integration of the shoreline management act policies with the growth management act.**

**Local Government & Housing Committee: Public Hearing**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill would eliminate the confusion caused by a Supreme Court decision and restore the original legislative intent that regulates critical areas in shorelines through the SMA—upon the next update of a jurisdiction's SMA regulations.
- This bill, requested by the Departments of CTED & Ecology, is broadly supported by the environmental community, local governments and ports.

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

**Ecology and Parks Committee: Possible Executive Session**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- One of the four environmental priorities for 2009, this bill implements the limits on global warming pollution established by the Legislature in 2008 by authorizing Washington's involvement in the pollution reduction program created by the Western Climate Initiative.
- Families and businesses in Washington will continue to suffer from fossil fuel price spikes and financial insecurity until we aggressively invest in clean energy alternatives and maximum efficiency. With Cap and Invest, we keep our energy dollars in-state rather than sending them to Houston or Riyadh, and stabilize energy prices by making our own abundant local sources of energy more competitive.



**HB 1854: Modifying provisions of the greenhouse gas emissions standards.**

**Technology, Energy & Communications Committee: Public Hearing**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- SB 6001, passed during the 2007 legislative session, sets limits the amount of greenhouse gas pollutions emitted through electricity generation. The law's intent is clear, to prevent more dirty coal plants and other high emitting resources from serving Washington needs.
- This legislation fixes two technical issues that threaten to un-do the standards and allow dirty resources from out of state to be used in Washington.

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

**Capital Budget Committee:** Public Hearing

**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.

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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