

WEEK of Monday, January 26, 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 COMMITTEE ACTION

Efficiency First! (Senator Kilmer, Prime Sponsor)

POSITION: *SUPPORT* - PLEASE SIGN ONTO BILL AS SPONSOR

- One of the four environmental priorities for 2009, this bill asserts 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.



Possible changes to utility emissions performance law.

Environment, Water & Energy 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.

SB 5344: Requiring a permanent oil spill response tug at Neah Bay.

Environment, Water & Energy Committee: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- With a track record of 41 rescues or assists, the Response Tug at Neah Bay has proven itself the most effective means of preventing and responding to oil spills in Puget Sound and on the outer coast.
- This bill will save the state \$3.6 million in the second year of the biennium and in subsequent years by requiring oil companies and other shippers to privately contract for the placement of the tug.

SB 5418: Regarding electric vehicles.

Environment, Water & Energy Committee: Public Hearing

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.

SB 5518: Reducing the amount of petroleum pollution in stormwater. (a.k.a. Invest in Clean Water, Sen. Pridemore, Prime Sponsor)

POSITION: *SUPPORT* – PLEASE SIGN ONTO BILL AS SPONSOR

- One of 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.



SB 5543: Establishing the product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights.

Environment, Water & Energy Committee: Public Hearing

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.

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