

WEEK of Monday, March 2, 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 1747: Reducing climate pollution in the built environment (a.k.a. Efficiency First; Rep. Christine Rolfes, Prime Sponsor).**

**Ways & Means Committee:** Possible Executive Session.

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Supported by AIA Washington, many individual 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.
- Successful negotiations to address concerns of business are ongoing and language is being drafted for new strike to reflect many of those concerns.



## POSSIBLE FLOOR ACTION

**2SHB 1165: Providing safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources.**

**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 the Board of Pharmacy provides oversight to ensure security. A fee paid by the producers recovers agency oversight costs.

**SHB 1172: Implementing a transfer of development rights program.**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Washington is losing its farmland at a fast and alarming rate - two Clark Counties or nearly one Walla Walla County, that’s how much agricultural land WA lost in the last 10 years.
- This bill creates a voluntary tool to better focus growth in the central Puget Sound’s urban areas while permanently protecting the region’s rural and resource land from encroaching development. It’s based on the consensus of a two-year stakeholder process.

**SHB 1180: Regarding the use of bisphenol A.**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- The Safe Baby Bottle bill (SHB 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.

**HB 1409: Requiring a Rescue Tug at Neah Bay.**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Requires oil companies and other shippers to maintain an oil spill response tug at Neah Bay.
- Will save taxpayers \$3.6 million per year beginning in 2010.

**2SHB 1469: Establishing the product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights.**

**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.

**SHB 1571: Regarding the adjudication of water rights.**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Adjudication is a critical tool to understand 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 allows Ecology to initiate limited adjudications and streamlines the adjudication process to promote efficiency and provide certainty for water users.

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

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT the Simpson Substitute.*

- WA State Association of Counties, Association of WA Cities, WA Ports Association, environmental organizations, and the Departments of Ecology and CTED support this bill.
- The bill creates no new protections, it simply clarifies how and when existing protections apply on the state's shorelands. This will eliminate the confusion caused by a Supreme Court decision from last fall.

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

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Two years ago, flooding caused over \$1 billion damage to the state. Last year we also saw extreme flood events from Skagit to Lewis Counties, threatening lives and property and damaging the environment.
- With limited exceptions, this bill will prohibit further urbanization of Western Washington's floodplains. This will prevent future communities from being put in harm's way and reduce the costs to the state and taxpayers.

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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