

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

Respectfully,

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION

ESSB 5583: Improving the effectiveness of water bank and exchange provisions

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- A water bank, administered through the Trust Water Rights Program, is a mechanism that provides flexibility for supplying water to instream and out-of-stream demands and protects a water right holder from relinquishment while the water is managed through the bank.
- This bill clarifies how a water bank operates and provides a consistent statewide system for managing banked water.

E2SSB 5735 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (a.k.a. formerly Cap and Invest).

Ecology and Parks Committee: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This Governor's-request legislation was weakened in the Senate to the point of a study bill that does not accomplish any reduction in global warming pollution.
- The House can do better and still has the opportunity to move forward with making enforceable the emission limits committed to in last year's Climate Action and Green Jobs law.



ESSB 5840: Modifying the Energy Independence Act.

Technology, Energy and Communications Committee: Possible Public Hearing

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- Despite the bill essentially gutting I-937, the Clean Energy Initiative, environmental groups are prepared to negotiate a slimmed-down bill to address stakeholder interests; which the Senate process did not afford.
- Bill includes “loadgrowth” provisions that would make future bump-ups to the standards essentially meaningless. We are opposed to these provisions.

2SSB 5854: Reducing climate pollution in the built environment (a.k.a. Efficiency First).

Technology, Energy & Communications Committee: Public hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill passed out of the Senate 45-5. Its companion (HB 1747) passed off the House floor with bipartisan support.
- The bill is a balanced approach to achieve energy efficiency in new and existing buildings, which will stimulate our economy and save residents and businesses money through energy savings.



SSB 6036: Concerning water cleanup planning and implementation.

Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee: Possible Executive Action

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This bill allows for cleanup of water bodies around the state to be delayed for decades
- Terms of the bill violate EPA policies under the federal Clean Water Act and could lead to litigation

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