

WEEK of Monday, March 16, 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

HB 1456: Preventing the conversion of certain natural resource lands.

Government Operations & Elections Committee: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Fully contained communities are threatening working lands and rural communities all over Washington. The recently released 2007 Census of Agriculture reports that WA loses an acre of farmland every seven minutes.
- HB 1456 would prevent new fully contained communities from being developed on natural resource lands, helping to reduce the pressure to urbanize these working lands.

2SHB 1481: Regarding electric vehicles.

Environment, Water, and Energy Committee: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Passed out of the House 71-23. 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.

2SHB 1580: Establishing a pilot local water management program in one qualified jurisdiction.

Environment, Water, and Energy Committee: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Water is a limited and publicly owned resource that is asked to meet many demands. Water policies must fairly balance multiple needs for critical fish habitat, agriculture, industry, and use in our homes.
- This bill establishes a pilot project for collaborative water management in the Walla Walla basin to enhance instream flows for fish while also providing flexibility and certainty to water users.

E2SHB 1747: Reducing climate pollution in the built environment (a.k.a. Efficiency First).

Environment, Water and Energy Committee: Possible public hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill passed out of the House with bipartisan support. Its companion (2SSB 5854) passed out of this committee and then off the Senate floor with a vote 45-5.
- 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.



SHB 1838: Creating a raffle only limited recreational rainbow trout fishery in Spirit Lake.
Natural Resources, Oceans & Recreation Committee: Public Hearing

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- Spirit Lake, the largest among some 40 lakes that surround Mount St. Helen's, is the focus of an unprecedented, international project to study long term ecological recovery in the wake of a major, volcanic disturbance. Opening it to sport fishing now would compromise nearly 30 years of scientific research into the lake's natural recovery process.
- WDFW has tried unsuccessfully since 2004 to get the Forest Service to open Spirit Lake to fishing; so now proponents have now turned to the Legislature to try to open this internationally significant scientific gem to fishing.

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