

WEEK of Monday, March 23, 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

### **E2SSB 5138: Creating an integrated climate change response strategy.**

**Ecology & Parks Committee:** Possible Executive Action

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Requires state agencies to develop an integrated climate change response strategy that incorporates adaptation plans.
- There are a number of cost effective actions state agencies can take to make our natural systems more resilient to climate change and reduce the potential for forest fires, flooding, crop failure, and water shortages.

### **E2SSB 5560: Regarding state agency climate leadership.**

**Ecology & Parks Committee:** Possible Executive Action

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Requires state agencies to meet greenhouse gas emission limits and vehicle fuel economy standards.
- The state needs to show leadership in reducing energy consumption. Energy audits and other cost-effective energy conservation measures will stimulate our economy and reduce state expenditures.

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

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

**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:** Possible Executive Session

**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 and Energy & Communications Committee:** Possible Public Hearing and Executive Session

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE CURRENT VERSION OF BILL*

- With leadership from Governor Gregoire, a new deal was presented to stakeholders on Friday. The environmental community believes the deal addresses stakeholder interests and significantly narrows the scope of the bill passed out of the Senate.
- If the Governor's deal is presented in the bill, with the agreement to not amend it once it leaves the committee, it will meet the spirit of the law while addressing concerns from reasonable public and private utilities. This is an amazing turn of events.

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

**Technology, Energy & Communications Committee:** Possible Public Hearing and Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- After working with various stakeholders, this bill has been amended and the fiscal note has been reduced to a minimal amount.
- A modest investment by the state will stimulate our economy and lead to continued reduction in energy use and on utility bills. It will also increase accountability that will help WA receive additional federal stimulus dollars.



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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