

WEEK of Monday, March 9, 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 FLOOR ACTION

SB 5280: Recognizing conservation achieved in excess of biennial conservation targets as an eligible renewable resource under chapter 19.285 RCW, the energy independence act.

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- In a nutshell, we need to do as much energy conservation as we can and develop as many new, clean renewable energy sources as we can. This bill would allow utilities to forgo the development of new renewable resources by doing more energy conservation instead. The underlying law, however, already requires utilities to achieve *all* cost effective conservation.
- The renewable and conservation standards were designed to work together to cover long-term forecasts of increased electricity needs. Blending the renewable and conservation standards could reduce the development of new renewables by 505-570 aMW by 2025, leaving open the potential for getting at least a portion of that energy from environmentally harmful sources instead of clean renewables.

SSB 5430: Concerning water discharge fees.

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill would adjust water quality permit fees to help fill a large gap in program funding.
- It is supported by the AWB, environmental groups, and local governments

SSB 5687: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements (a.k.a. Transit Oriented Communities; Sen. Chris Marr, Prime Sponsor).

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- The Transit-Oriented Communities bill incorporates climate change consideration into land use and transportation planning, helping to increase transportation choices, reduce traffic congestion, save taxpayer dollars, and significantly lessen the state's greenhouse gas emissions. This bill will make it easier for communities to grow in an economically sustainable way, avoiding unnecessary and duplicative infrastructure investments.
- The bill is a work in progress. Proponents have significantly altered the original bill in response to input from local governments and other stakeholders and will continue to work with those stakeholders on additional changes.



SB 5735: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (a.k.a. Cap and Invest; Sen. Phil Rockefeller, Prime Sponsor).

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill moves forward with action to help Washington work toward the emission limits enacted by the Legislature last year, as well as reducing our spending on imported fossil fuels, keeping more of our energy dollars here in Washington.
- We expect there will be new language on this bill before a floor vote. We remain supportive of a bill moving forward that includes significant emissions reductions, and keeps Washington engaged in influencing the development of regional and national cap and trade programs, to keep momentum on for addressing climate change and to protect Washington's unique interests. It is important to continue moving forward this year toward meeting our climate and clean energy goals, and this bill is the foundation of the state's overall strategy.



SSB 5840: Modifying the energy independence act.

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- In its current form, the bill severely weakens I-937, the Clean Energy Act, by including current provisions capping development at load growth, grandfathering in existing resources to count as eligible renewables, and allowing conservation to substitute for renewable resources. Such amendments essentially eliminate all of the new renewables that would have been produced through the citizens' initiative.
- We owe it to you to make sure you understand the significance of this legislation. In its current form, the bill essentially wipes out the renewable standard. At a time when states around the country are increasing their renewable standards, this bill would make Washington the first and only state to rollback its clean energy requirements.

2SSB 5854: Reducing climate pollution in the built environment (a.k.a. Efficiency First; Sen. Derek Kilmer, Prime Sponsor).

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- A Senate striker incorporates language that is the result of negotiations with the Association of Washington Business, whose concerns have been addressed.
- The striker represents 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.



SB 6083: Consolidating the growth management hearings boards.

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- The state has three hearings boards, Eastern, Western and Central, so that the different regions of the state and their different concerns can be considered when implementing the Growth Management Act.
- Consolidating the Boards into a single board based in Olympia will take away this regional perspective.

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