

WEEK of Monday, February 4, 2008

Environmental Community

Hot List for the STATE SENATE

For the sixth 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

PSSB 5393: Ensuring the cleanup of certain hazardous waste sites.

Water, Energy, Telecommunications Committee: Public Hearing and Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill prohibits disposal of hazardous waste at contaminated sites listed on the National Priority (“Superfund” list) list until the site is in compliance with state and federal environmental laws.
- The proposed substitute bill implements the key provision of the most-popular ballot initiative in Washington history (I-297 with 1.8 million “yes” votes) within the guidance from the federal courts, and is agreed-to by the Governor’s office and the Department of Ecology.

SB 6420: Adding bicyclist and pedestrian safety information to drivers' education curriculum.

Transportation: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill would add pedestrian safety and bicycle safety to the basic minimum curriculum for driver training. This safety legislation is named for Matthew “Tatsuo” Nakata, a former legislative assistant, who was tragically struck and killed in a marked crosswalk in 2006.
- SB 6420 was one of the priority issues for Transportation Advocacy Day 2008, held on January 29th, presented by a coalition of eleven organizations promoting transportation solutions for healthier communities.

SB 6469: Regarding Urban Forestry (a.k.a. Evergreen Cities Act; Sen. Ed Murray, Prime Sponsor).

Senate Natural Resources, Oceans and Recreation: Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Creates new urban forest program with standards, funding and increased technical assistance for cities and counties to preserve existing trees, restore urban forests on public lands and expand forest canopy in our cities, towns and suburbs.
- Trees, forests and vegetation in the places we live are one of the most cost effective ways to reduce stormwater runoff, water and air pollution and make our cities great places to live, work, shop and play.



SB 6483: Enacting the local farms-healthy kids and communities act (a.k.a. Local Farms-Healthy Kids; Sen. Brian Hatfield, Prime Sponsor).

Agriculture and Rural Economic Development: Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- By revising low-cost bidding restrictions, creating a Farm to School Program, and promoting local purchasing, this environmental community priority will help improve kids' nutrition and will increase the number of dollars spent in Washington for Washington farm products.
- This bill enjoys huge public support and is backed by a coalition that includes the farm bureau, schools, public health advocates, individual farmers and parents across the state.



SSB 6516: Providing a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Washington economy. (a.k.a. Climate Action and Green Jobs; Sen. Craig Pridemore, Prime Sponsor).

Ways and Means: Public Hearing and Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- One of the four environmental community priorities for 2008, *now Governor request legislation as well.* This bill creates a structure and timeline for implementing the state's global warming pollution reduction goals, and creates a program to prepare Washington workers for new jobs in the clean energy economy. The bill ensures the state delivers on the goals the Legislature adopted last year, by providing concrete accountability for results.
- The bill helps position Washington's industries at the forefront of developing the clean energy economy by signaling that there will be markets for clean energy and a workforce trained to deliver those products and services.



SSB 6530: The children's safe products act.

Senate Ways and Means: Possible Public Hearing and Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Prohibits manufacture or sale in Washington of any children's products that contain excessive amounts lead, cadmium, and phthalates, including toys, jewelry, cosmetics, and car seats intended for use by children.
- Collects information on other toxic chemicals that are present in toys and other children's products, to determine whether further action is needed.

SB 6566: Addressing concurrency and impact fees for transportation purposes.

Transportation: Public Hearing and Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- This bill will increase traffic and congestion by allowing irresponsible development to occur despite the inability to handle additional capacity.
- While it's important to focus additional growth in our urban areas, it's critical to ensure that infrastructure is capable of meeting the needs of higher densities.

SSB 6580: Addressing the impacts of climate change through the growth management act (a.k.a. Local Solutions to Global Warming; Sen. Chris Marr, Prime Sponsor).

Government Operations & Elections: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- One of the four environmental community priorities for 2008, the substitute sets in motion the important first steps to help local governments reduce their climate impact. By focusing on developing the necessary tools and incorporating climate change into land use plans, this bill supports immediate action while laying the ground work for the 2011 comprehensive plan update cycle.
- The substitute adds a goal to the GMA of addressing climate change and provides local governments with the tools and support to manage growth in ways that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the likely affects of climate change.



SB 6777: Clarifying interests in certain state lands.

Water, Energy & Telecommunications: Public Hearing and Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- The State Legislature is the Trustee of State owned trust lands and has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that interests to these lands are managed with undivided loyalty to the State Trust.
- A legal question exists as to State ownership of sand and gravel on Maury Island. This bill requires that, until a judgment is entered by a Washington appellate court that determines title, DNR shall not authorize any portion of the state-owned aquatic lands for transportation of materials from the mining operations. Expires January 1, 2011.

SB 6822: Establishing goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Transportation: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill, based closely on one of the Climate Advisory Team's "most promising" proposals, would set initial state goals to reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT). It would also convene a collaborative process to give growing regions the tools, strategies, and flexibility to plan for success.
- SB 6822 was one of the priority issues for Transportation Advocacy Day 2008, held on January 29th, presented by a coalition of eleven organizations promoting transportation solutions for healthier communities.

Contributing Organizations

American Rivers ♦ Audubon Washington ♦ Climate Solutions ♦ Conservation Northwest ♦ Earth Ministries
Environment Washington ♦ Futurewise ♦ Heart of America Northwest ♦ Lutheran Public Policy Office ♦ The Nature Conservancy
NW Energy Coalition ♦ People for Puget Sound ♦ Puget Soundkeeper Alliance ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Transportation Choices Coalition
WA Citizens for Resource Conservation ♦ Washington Conservation Voters ♦ Washington Environmental Council ♦ WashPIRG ♦
Washington Toxics Coalition ♦ Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition