

WEEK of Monday, January 28, 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

SB 6379: Affordable Efficient Appliances.

Ways and Means: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Energy efficiency is the cleanest, cheapest and most abundant source of energy available. This bill will increase consumer and business demand for energy-efficient appliances and equipment to conserve energy and water, reduce power bills and meet our state-of-the-art energy efficient appliances and equipment. The tax exemption sunsets after two years.
- This bill passed unanimously out of the House Technology, Energy and Communications Committee. Support includes utilities, businesses, environmental and local governments support.

SB 6395: Protecting orca whales from the impacts of vessels.

Natural Resource, Ocean, and Recreation: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill requires all vessels to maintain at least 300 feet from orca whales.
- Allows for enforcement of key element of whale recovery plan.

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

Transportation: Public Hearing & 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 is one of the priority issues for Transportation Advocacy Day 2008, to be 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: Public Hearing

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. (Sen. Brian Hatfield, Prime Sponsor).

Agriculture and Rural Economic Development: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill will expand markets for Washington farmers and increase children's access to nutritious, locally-grown fruits and vegetables.
- By easing up on low-cost bidding restrictions, creating a Farm to School Program, and establishing new policies to get Washington-grown food to those who need it most, this environmental community priority will help support farmers, preserve farmland, and improve the health of Washington's kids.



SB 6515: Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings.

Ways and Means: Public Hearing

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Performance contracting is a proven strategy for gaining the greatest energy efficiency savings in state buildings, schools, libraries, fire stations, public hospitals and other public facilities ... projects that more than pay for themselves through reduced utility costs. The net benefit to taxpayers is lower operating costs for public buildings through reduced utility costs.
- Provides a sales tax exemption for state and local governments that contract for performance-based energy efficiency improvements in public buildings resulting in increased energy efficiency, reduced energy costs in public buildings and reduced climate pollution.

SB 6516: Regarding greenhouse gases emissions and providing for green collar jobs (a.k.a. Climate Action and Green Jobs; Sen. Craig Pridemore, Prime Sponsor).

Water, Energy and Telecommunications: Possible 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.
- Last year, the Legislature adopted goals to reduce the state's global warming pollution, increase clean energy jobs, and reduce fossil fuel dependence. This bill ensures that the state delivers on those goals by providing concrete accountability for results.



SB 6530: The children's safe products act.

Senate Water, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee: Public Hearing

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 and requires manufactures of children's products to disclose to consumers and governments toxic chemical content.

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 consensus striker 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 and transportation plans now, this bill supports immediate action while laying the ground work for the 2011 comprehensive plan update cycle.
- The striker 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 climate emissions and adapt to the likely affects of climate change.



SB 6822: Establishing goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Transportation: Public Hearing & 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 is one of the priority issues for Transportation Advocacy Day 2008, to be 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