

WEEK of Monday, March 3, 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

HB 1773: Regarding the imposition of tolls.

Transportation: Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- HB 1773 would set statewide direction for tolling policy.
- Tolls remain a sensitive issue, and must be implemented with great care and concern for social and environmental impacts. It is imperative that the language from the House be maintained, particularly the consideration of relevant social equity, environmental, and economic issues, and the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

HB 2564: 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.
- HB 2564 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.

E2SHB 2647: The children's safe products act.

Senate Ways and Means: Public Hearing & Possible Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT* with no weakening amendments

- The Toy Industry Association (TIA), a trade association for the largest toy manufactures in the United States, has now suddenly appeared on the scene, hiring usual suspect Washington lobbyists, and attempting to weaken the bill that passed the House 95-0. Proponents have made numerous changes in the bill to address concerns of electronics manufacturers, retailers, and other business interests. Please support the bill in its current form.
- At this point of session, and given the support this bill has had to date, let's make sure we as a state take a stand against this type of activity. By taking this very moderate step to protect our children and educate consumers, we will be sending a strong positive signal about the importance of protecting the safety of our children.

E2SHB 2815: Relating to creating a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Washington economy (a.k.a. Climate Action and Green Jobs).

Ways and Means Committee: Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- We support this bill in its current form. It calls for mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions; accountability for reaching the pollution reduction goals adopted in last year's SB 6001; design of a market-based emissions reduction system to be brought back to the Legislature in 2009; and a program to prepare Washington workers for new jobs in the clean energy economy.
- The bill declares that the state will look out for Washington's interests in designing the market-based system, including requiring the state to recommend how forestry and agriculture may receive benefits for storing carbon.



E2SHB 2844: Preventing air and water pollution through urban forestry partnerships (a.k.a. Evergreen Cities Act).

Senate Ways & Means: Public Hearing & Possible Executive Action

POSITION: *SUPPORT* Technical Striking Amendment

- The Evergreen Cities Act is supported by cities, counties, developers, utilities, other businesses and agencies. This negotiated approach establishes a voluntary program with the tools, resources and incentives necessary to help the 90% of Washington communities that lack urban forest inventories and management plans. This bill will maximize urban forests' economic and environmental benefits.
- This environmental community priority is still worth fighting for, but any additional weakening amendments would gut the purpose of bringing this legislation forward in the first place.



ESHB 2847: Creating a sales and use tax exemption of materials and services used in the low-income weatherization assistance program.

Ways and Means: Possible Executive session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Increases the potential use of weatherization services that decreases energy use and lowers energy bills by exempting property and services used in delivering the weatherization assistance program.

HB 3096: Financing the state route number 520 bridge replacement project.

Transportation: Possible Public Hearing & Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT* w/request for future changes to the Floor Amendment

- We appreciate and support many changes reflected by the House floor amendments. However, we have one important and specific concern in the House version of the bill: it needs to be clarified so that the bridge is designed for HOV travel and high-capacity transportation. "Transit" alone is a step backward from 2007's SB 6099 (which the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law just last year). The bridge design language should include high-capacity transportation, just as it did in SB 6099. Efficient HCT options must be incorporated on the 4+2 bridge as we plan for population growth and provide mobility choices that support our state's climate change goals.
- We will be working closely with the House and Senate Transportation Chairs, and other key members on these changes as the bill works its way through the process.

HB 3362: Providing tax incentives to encourage businesses to purchase highly energy efficient equipment.

Ways and Means: Possible Executive session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Creates a credit against state B&O tax for small businesses that purchase certain state of the art high efficiency appliances and equipment.

POSSIBLE SENATE FLOOR ACTION

HB 2263: Regarding the phosphorus content in dishwashing detergent.

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- HB 2263 would delay implementation of the limit on phosphorus in automatic dish detergent in Clark and Whatcom counties until the limit goes into effect statewide in 2010, leaving only Spokane County as the only place it goes into effect in 2008. In WA, the phosphorus problem is most acute in Lake Whatcom and the Spokane River. In order to meet water quality standards, the limit cannot be delayed in Whatcom or Spokane Counties.
- Proponents of the legislation claimed that an adequate supply of phosphate-free dish detergent is not available; however new information from key manufacturers indicates that there is in fact plenty of supply to meet the demand, and by way of background, two years ago WA became the first state in the country to limit the phosphorus content in automatic dishwashing detergent. Now, five other states have followed suit.

ESHB 2758: Adding products to the energy efficiency code.

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Takes California's lead and adds minimum efficiency standards for certain products that are sold, offered for sale, or installed in Washington. These products are not currently covered by federal or other Washington standards.

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