

WEEK of Monday, February 25, 2008

Environmental Community

# Hot List for the STATE HOUSE

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](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

### **2SSB 6227: Providing support and resources to outer coast marine resources committees.**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources:** Public Hearing and Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Marine resources committees are a bottom-up approach to addressing coastal issues, and are effective at creating local collaboration to better protect our marine resources.
- This bill will create an outer coast marine resource program that will support the work of the committees and improve our ability to collaboratively identify and address critical issues facing Washington's coastal areas.

### **SSB 6307: Regarding marine managed areas.**

**Ecology and Parks:** Public Hearing and Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Develops a coordinated plan for the state's several aquatic protection programs, under the aegis of the Puget Sound partnership.
- Calls for a strategic network of marine managed areas to help achieve the Partnership's goal to recover the Sound to health by 2020.

### **SSB 6395: Protecting orca whales from the impacts from vessels.**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources:** Public Hearing and Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill is a critical component in the effort to recover orca whales listed as threatened under the ESA and Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- Requires vessels to remain at least 300 feet from orcas.

### **2SSB 6483: Enacting the local farms-healthy kids act (a.k.a. Local Farms-Healthy Kids).**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources:** Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This environmental community priority will help to improve kids' nutrition and create new markets for Washington grown food by revising low-cost bidding restrictions, creating a Farm to School Program, and promoting local purchasing,
- The Local Farms Healthy Kids Act passed the Senate with a unanimous vote and is supported by the farm bureau, schools, public health advocates, individual farmers and parents across the state.



**ESSB 6580: Addressing the impacts of climate change through the growth management act (a.k.a. Local Solutions to Global Warming).**

**Local Government:** Public Hearing & Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*



- One of the four environmental community priorities for 2008, this bill is now supported by the Association of Washington Cities and Washington State Association of Counties. The bill has three components: directs CTED to develop a tool to inventory, measure and estimate land use related greenhouse gas emissions; creates a competitive grants program for cities and counties that choose to take immediate action; and convenes an interim taskforce to report back to the legislature on any necessary policy actions to better enable cities and counties to address climate change.
- By focusing on developing the necessary tools, this bill supports those municipalities that are taking action now while simultaneously laying the groundwork for the future. Full funding is critical to ensure local governments will have access to the tools needed to manage growth in ways that address and adapt to climate change.

**SB 6777: Clarifying interests in state lands.**

**Finance:** Public Hearing & Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Requires that, until a judgment is entered by a Washington appellate court that determines title to the sand, gravel, and rock resources in specified lands, the department shall not lease any portion of the state-owned aquatic lands that comprise the Maury Island aquatic reserve for industrial uses -Expires January 1, 2011.
- Does not prevent existing mining from continuing.

**POSSIBLE HOUSE FLOOR ACTION**

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

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT – but do not adopt design amendments or weakening amendments*

- The state route 520 bridge is one of the most vulnerable structures in the state and in danger of failure during either a heavy windstorm or an earthquake. HB 3096 provides for strategies for financing the SR-520 bridge.
- We applaud many of the bill's components, including potential early tolls, potential federal authorization of I-90 tolling, and a tolling implementation committee, which would seek public input on tolling and use of revenues, incentives for using transit or carpooling, and variable tolls in the corridor. The bill out of committee is a major improvement in leaving the design issues for other forums—design should remain out of this bill, and amendments that address design or weaken the bill should *not* be incorporated on the floor.

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**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