

WEEK of Monday, February 11, 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 6308: Preparing for and adapting to climate change.

Senate Ways and Means: Public Hearing and Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Department of Ecology must prepare a report on its recommendations for a comprehensive climate change research, preparation, and adaptation program, and recommendations for delivering technical and financial assistance to local, regional, state, and other jurisdictions about infrastructure planning, human health protection, forestry, agriculture, water supply and water quality protection, and protection of ecosystems and biodiversity.
- The Office of the Washington State Climatologist is created. The State Climatologist is appointed by the Director of the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean within the University of Washington and represents the state in all climatological and meteorological matters when requested by the legislative or executive branches of state government.

SB 6379: Concerning sales tax incentives for highly energy efficient appliances and equipment.

Ways and Means: Executive Session

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

Senate Ways and Means: Public Hearing and 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).

Ways and Means: Public Hearing and Executive Session

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- Schools spend more than \$300 million on food every year. By revising low-cost bidding restrictions, creating a Farm to School Program, and promoting local purchasing, this environmental community priority will help ensure that more of those dollars end up in the hands of Washington farmers.
- This bill will help to improve kids' nutrition and create new markets for Washington grown food. These win-win policies are supported by the farm bureau, schools, public health advocates, individual farmers and parents across the state.



SB 6515: Modifying the tax treatment of energy savings performance contracts.

Ways and Means: Executive Session

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.

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: 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.
- Requires manufacturers 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).

Ways & Means: Public Hearing & 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. 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.
- Funding is critical to ensure local governments will have access to the tools needed to measure and reduce their climate impact before the next comprehensive plan cycle begins and to fund jurisdictions taking immediate action to address and adapt to climate change.



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.

POSSIBLE SENATE FLOOR ACTION

SSB 6444: Creating the children's product safety act.

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- This bill compliments SB 6530 and also ensures safe products for children.

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