

**WEEK of Monday, January 21, 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

### **HB 1773: Regarding the imposition of tolls.**

**Transportation:** Possible Executive Session

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT -- IF AMENDED*

- HB 1773 would set statewide direction for tolling policy. The Clibborn striker (H2925.2) represents a significant improvement over the version considered in committee.
- Amendments should be incorporated to add “management” to the set of tolling purposes, to consider relevant social equity, environmental, and economic issues, and to be consistent with the state’s adopted greenhouse gas reduction goals. *OPPOSE* the Ericksen amendment, however, which will set the bill back.

### **HB 2525: Allowing for the mitigation of flood damage without obtaining a permit under chapter 77.55 RCW.**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- Potentially undermines habitat and fish protection efforts by adding an unnecessary exception to permit requirements for flood mitigation and repair during a State of Emergency.
- Existing law already contains adequate provisions for emergency situations and flexibility in case of “imminent danger.” This bill will create confusion and could lead to abuse.

### **HB 2647: The children's safe products act.**

**House Select Committee on Environmental Health:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- Prohibits manufacture or sale in Washington of any children's products that contain excessive, dangerous amounts of the toxins 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.

**HB 2677: Concerning the removal of gravel from waterways to reduce the impact of flooding.**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *OPPOSE*

- Allows counties, flood control districts, and diking districts to remove and deposit gravel “in any manner deemed expedient” without agency oversight or enforcement so long as the gravel removal is beneficial for flood control or flood impact reduction.
- Would hinder the state’s salmon recovery efforts, open the door for significant ESA conflicts on rivers with listed species and strip environmental compliance and enforcement authority from state agencies.

**HB 2797: Addressing the impacts of climate change through the growth management act (a.k.a. Local Solutions to Global Warming; Rep. Geoff Simpson, Prime Sponsor)**

**Local Government:** Public Hearing

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- One of the four environmental community priorities for 2008, this bill adds a goal to the GMA of addressing climate change and provides local governments with the necessary tools and support to manage growth in ways that reduce climate emissions and adapts to the likely affects of climate change.
- Promising negotiations are underway with stakeholders on a substitute bill that ensures cities and counties will be able to inventory, measure and mitigate climate emissions in time for the next comprehensive planning cycle in 2011.



**HB 2798: Enacting the local farms-healthy kids and communities act. (Rep. Eric Pettigrew, Prime Sponsor)**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources:** Public Hearing and 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.



**HB 2815: Regarding greenhouse gases emissions and providing for green collar jobs (a.k.a. Climate Action and Green Jobs; Rep. Hans Dunshee, Prime Sponsor)**

**Ecology and Parks:** Public Hearing

**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.



**HB 2844 – Concerning Urban Forestry (a.k.a. Evergreen Cities Act; Rep. Ruth Kagi, Prime Sponsor)**

**House Ecology & Parks Committee:** Public Hearing and Possible 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.



**HB 2876: Concerning sales tax incentives for highly energy efficient appliances and equipment**  
**Technology, Energy & Communications: 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.
- Bill has support from the food industry and utilities.

**HB 3064: Creating a producer managed and funded product stewardship program to collect and dispose of unwanted residential drugs**

**Environmental Health: Public Hearing**

**POSITION:** *SUPPORT*

- This bill will reduce the amount of unwanted household medicines flushed down the drain into our waterways. It will also decrease chances of accidental poisonings and illegitimate use from unwanted medicines stored in our homes.
- Drug companies will provide a medicine collection and disposal program that is convenient, safe and free for all Washington residents.

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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 ♦ 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