

**Town Hall Activist: Be a Voice for the Environment
Suggested Questions – 2019 Legislative Session****100% Clean Electricity**

I am encouraged to see that the Senate passed SB 5116 and it's already had a public hearing in the House. The bill would set the strongest standard in the nation to reach 100% clean electricity by 2045. Having a clean electricity system is a foundation to reduce climate pollution, clean up the transportation sector, and make sure our homes, schools, and places of work run on clean electricity.

- Do you support SB 5116? (if yes, please thank them for their support)
- What will you do to ensure that the bill passes with policy elements on equity and cost protections intact?

Orca Emergency Response

Our Southern resident orcas are on the brink of extinction with 74 individuals remaining, and the legislature must take action to the three biggest threats facing their survival: a lack of food, impacts from vessel noise and disturbance, and impacts from toxic pollution.

It was great to see the House and Senate take action recently. I'm hoping we can build momentum to pass all of these bills this session.

- Do you support each of the orca protection bills? (If yes, thank them!)
- How will you make sure that these bills don't get stalled and make it past the finish line?

Three orca bills include:

1. HB 1579 (habitat protections for salmon and forage fish) was passed out of the House on a 59-39 vote.
2. Both HB 1580 and SB 5577 (decreasing vessel noise and disturbance) passed out of their respective chambers with a 78-20 and 48-3 vote, respectively.
3. SB 5135 (preventing toxic pollution that affects public health or the environment) narrowly passed out of the Senate with a 25-24 vote.

Oil Spill Prevention

March 24th marks the 30th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Local communities and the environment are still living with the consequences of that spill today. One legacy from the Valdez

disaster is that a transient pod of orca in Prince William Sound is functionally extinct with no reproductive females left and no successful births since the spill happened.

The Salish Sea has barges and tanker vessels carrying dangerous crude oil every day – including heavy sinking oil that is nearly impossible to clean up.

- Do you support HB 1578, which would extend proven oil spill prevention requirements to barges and mini-tankers carrying oil and risking a spill? (If yes, thank you!)

Reducing Plastic Pollution

Thin plastic bags are used only for a few minutes and discarded. These bags get into our waterways and ocean, clog the stomachs of wildlife, and break down into smaller pieces and are ingested. We must reduce plastic pollution in our environment.

- Do you support the Reusable Bag Act, SB 5323? (If yes, thank you!)

Clean Fuels Standard

Exhaust from cars, trucks, and buses is the largest source of climate pollution in the state. We must act now to reduce pollution from the transportation sector.

- Do you support HB 1110, which requires a 20% reduction in harmful climate emissions from fuels by 2035? (If yes, thank you!)
- How will you work to get this bill across the finish line this year?

Clean and Efficient Buildings

Buildings are the fastest growing source of climate pollution in the state. HB 1257 would be a big step forward to make sure commercial buildings maximize energy efficiency and pollution reduction.

- Do you support HB 1257? (If yes, thank you!)

Orcas and the Budget

We know that orcas are facing extinction and now is the time to act. In addition to passing orca recovery policy bills, it's important that the 2-year budget provide funding to implement these laws and accelerate orca and salmon recovery and habitat restoration.

- Do you support the Governor's proposed budget on orca recovery and response?
- How will you make sure the final budget includes funding to implement and enforce environmental laws related to orcas?

- How will you work on a new capital budget that provides funding for critical needs like habitat restoration and reducing stormwater runoff?

Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act

Low income households and communities of color are often impacted first and worst when it comes to pollution and environmental harm. It's critical for the state to center communities most impacted by environmental damage when implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and enforcing environmental laws and policies.

- Do you support the HEAL Act, SB 5489, which creates a consistent definition of environmental justice and provides tools to better serve impacted communities? (If yes, thank you!)