Hot List for the Washington State House of Representatives

Members of the Legislature,

For the past 15 years, environmental groups in Washington State have organized their efforts in Olympia through the “Environmental Priorities Coalition.” Our coalition prepares a weekly Legislative “Hot List,” as a regular communication for legislators, which details our positions on up to ten of our highest priority issues for the upcoming week. The purpose of this communication tool is to allow the Washington State Legislature, the Executive Branch, and media organizations to easily track the Environmental Priorities Coalition’s top priorities all session long.

As the lobbyist for Washington Conservation Voters and Washington Environmental Council, I will send this “Hot List” to you on a weekly basis. Please feel free to contact me at clifford@ctassociates.org if you have any questions.

A PDF of the Hot List can be found here – along with an archive of all Hot Lists from 2019 as the Legislative Session progresses.

House Floor Action

HB 1257: Concerning energy efficiency (Clean Buildings for Washington Act).

SUPPORT

Possible Floor Action

- Addresses the built environment, which produces 27% of Washington’s greenhouse gas emissions – our second largest source of emission.
- Addresses natural gas use in homes and buildings with increased conservation programs; spurs retrofits in large existing commercial buildings with performance standards and state incentives; and requires EV-readiness in new buildings with parking.

House Committee Action

SB 5116: Supporting Washington’s clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future (100% Clean Electricity).

SUPPORT

House Finance: Possible Executive Session

- One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019.
- Moves Washington away from fossil fuels and toward 100% Clean Electricity, making our state a national leader.
• A 100% Clean Electricity portfolio reduces pollution that causes climate change, expands our clean energy economy, and sets a foundation to reduce pollution from other sectors like transportation.

**SB 5135: Preventing toxic pollution that affects public health or the environment.**

**SUPPORT**

House Environment & Energy: Possible Executive Session

• One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019, and implements part of the Orca Task Force’s recommendations.

• Authorizes the Department of Ecology to take actions to reduce the use of harmful chemicals in consumer products before the pollution contaminates homes, people, waterways, salmon, and orcas, and before it creates the need for expensive cleanup and treatment.

**SB 5223: Concerning net metering (Solar Fairness Act).**

**SUPPORT**

House Energy & Environment: Possible Executive Session

• Strengthens net metering standards, protects homeowners, and expands the emerging solar market in the state.

• Solar owners deserve full credit for the power they make. Unfortunately, consumers statewide are often unable to benefit fully from the generation of solar energy on their rooftops and properties because Washington has some of the weakest net metering policies in the nation.

**SB 5322: Ensuring compliance with the federal clean water act by prohibiting certain discharges into waters of the state.**

**SUPPORT**

House Environment & Energy: Possible Executive Action

• Strengthens action to safeguard rivers and habitat from suction dredge mining.

• Washington lags behind Oregon and other states in terms of protecting rivers and streams from harmful mining.

**SB 5323: Reducing Pollution from Plastic Bags.**

**SUPPORT**

House Environment & Energy: Possible Executive Action

House Finance: Public Hearing on Friday, March 29th

• One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019.

• Creates a statewide ban on carryout plastic bags, encouraging use of recycled paper and reusable bags.

• Reduces harm to marine life, cuts down on litter, and prevents problems at recycling and composting facilities.

**SB 5397: Concerning the responsible management of plastic packaging.**

**SUPPORT**

House Environment & Energy: Possible Executive Action

• Requires Department of Ecology to study plastic packaging and to make recommendations to the legislature on how to better manage plastic packaging to achieve a goal of one hundred percent recyclable, reusable, or compostable packaging in all goods by 2025.
• Plastic packaging represents a growing environmental problem with impacts on marine environment, litter, and our recycling programs

**SB 5489: Establishing a healthy environment for all (HEAL Act).**
**SUPPORT**
House State Government & Tribal Relations: Possible Executive Session
• Establishes a state definition of environmental justice for agencies to use; requires the use of cumulative impacts analysis, such as a mapping tool; and develops strategies for stronger public outreach and engagement on environmental decisions, including translation services.

**SB 5577: Concerning the protection of southern resident orca whales from vessels.**
**SUPPORT**
House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources: Possible Executive Session
• One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019, and implements part of the Orca Task Force’s recommendations.
• Reduces vessel noise and disturbance for our Southern Resident orcas using common sense tools such as a go-slow zone, no-go zone, and permit system.

**SB 5579: Concerning the volatility of crude oil received in the state by rail.**
**SUPPORT**
House Environment & Energy: Possible Executive Session
• Provides strong protections and penalties to protect communities facing risks from new types of crude oil, including Bakken oil that is uniquely dangerous and volatile.

**SB 5816: Clarifying the valuation and determination of used and useful property for rate making purposes.**
**SUPPORT**
House Environment & Energy: Public Hearing on Monday, March 25th
• Clarifies the UTC’s authority to determine the fair value of “used and useful” utility properties in rate cases, without limiting UTC authority to consider other flexible regulatory approaches.
• Requires the UTC to establish a process to identify and evaluate property that becomes “used and useful” between rate cases.

**SB 5873: Concerning community forests pilot project.**
**SUPPORT**
House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources: Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 27th
• Established an advisory group and creates 6-year pilot program to fund locally-owned community forests able to manage important forestlands for multiple benefits, with biennium reporting requirements.
• Community forests allow local communities participate in management decisions while ensuring that the benefits created by forest management are secured for local priorities and stewardship efforts.

*about the coalition*
The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of over twenty leading environmental groups in Washington State that influence policy at the state level. For over a decade, the Coalition has selected joint priority issues to work on during legislative session to help focus environmental community resources and best achieve our shared goals.