Hot List for the Washington State Senate

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.

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Senate Floor Action

**SB 5115: Concerning appliance efficiency standards.**

**SUPPORT**

Possible Floor Action

- Sets energy and water efficiency standards for common consumer products, saving consumers money on utility bills and helping transition our energy system to a cleaner future.

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

**SUPPORT**

Possible Floor Action

- 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**

*Possible Floor Action*

- 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 5293: 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.

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

**SUPPORT**

*Possible Floor Action*

- One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019.
- Creates a statewide ban on carryout plastic bags, places a 10-cent fee on recycled paper bags, and encourages the use of reusable bags.
- Reduces harm to marine life, cuts down on litter, and prevents problems at recycling and composting facilities.

**SB 5329: Concerning updating and streamlining energy facility site evaluation council operations.**

**SUPPORT**

*Possible Floor Action*

- Better supports Washington’s energy goals by adding clean energy as an objective, as well as streamlines application and review process, increasing administrative efficiencies.
- Expands Tribal, city and county membership, enhancing local and Tribal engagement in EFSEC oversight.

**SB 5372: Concerning local project review undertaken under chapter 36.70B RCW.**

**OPPOSE**

*Possible Floor Action*

- Complete application determination is lowered from 28 day to 10 days and a request for additional information down to 5 days.
- Creates vested rights for projects before local jurisdictions could adequately assess if the application is complete and accurate.

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

**SUPPORT**

*Possible Floor Action*
• Requires Department of Ecology to study and then recommend new management techniques for plastic packaging, with the goal of shifting costs off ratepayers and developing a system that will reduce unnecessary plastic packaging and increase recycling of this material.
• 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**

**Possible Floor Action**

• 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**

**Possible Floor Action**

• 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 a go-slow zone, no-go zone, and permit system.

**SB 5811: Reducing emissions by making changes to the clean car standards and clean car program.**

**SUPPORT**

**Possible Floor Action**

• Fully adopts California’s zero emission vehicles standards, which require manufacturers to produce a certain number of zero emissions vehicles each year based on their market sales.

**SB 5873: Concerning community forests.**

**SUPPORT**

**Possible Floor Action**

• Creates 6-year pilot program to fund locally-owned community forests able to manage important forestlands for multiple benefits, with biennium reporting requirements.
• Local communities participate in management decisions while ensuring that the benefits created by forest management are secured for local priorities and stewardship efforts.

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*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.