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.

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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 5323: Reducing Pollution from Plastic Bags.**

**SUPPORT**
House Finance: *Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 2*nd

- 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 Appropriations: *Possible Public Hearing and Executive Session*

- 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 Appropriations: *Possible Public Hearing and 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 5579: Concerning the volatility of crude oil received in the state by rail.**

**SUPPORT**
House Environment & Energy: *Possible Executive Session*

- Protects communities facing risks from Bakken oil that is uniquely dangerous and volatile.

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

**SUPPORT**
House Environment & Energy: *Possible Executive Session*

- Authorizes the department of ecology to adopt California zero emission vehicle program regulations and expands the types of vehicles required to meet those standards to include medium duty.

**SB 5873: Concerning community forests pilot project.**

**SUPPORT**
House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources: *Possible Executive Session*

- Creates pilot to fund locally-owned community forests able to manage important forestlands for multiple benefits, with biennium reporting requirements.

*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.