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 Committee Action

**HB 1110: Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation fuels (Clean Fuel Standard).**

**SUPPORT**

Senate Transportation: *Public Hearing on Thursday, April 4th*

- Supports the deployment of clean transportation fuel technologies through a carefully designed program that reduces the carbon intensity of fuel used in the state, while cutting down pollutants that harm public health.

**HB 1112: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from hydrofluorocarbons.**

**SUPPORT**

Senate Ways & Means: *Public Hearing on Thursday, April 4th*

- Phases out the sale and use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are primarily used as refrigerants, in different applications by 2024.
- HFCs are extremely potent greenhouse gases with existing alternatives for their use. HFCs are already restricted in California and were previously by the EPA.

**HB 1444: Concerning appliance efficiency standards.**
SUPPORT
Senate Ways & Means: Public Hearing on Thursday, April 4th

- Sets energy and water efficiency standards for common consumer products, saving consumers money on utility bills.
- Requires that electric hot water heaters sold in the state be grid-ready to enable future utility demand response programs, which is important as we move to a cleaner electric system.

HB 1578: Reducing threats to southern resident killer whales by improving the safety of oil transportation.

SUPPORT
Senate Ways & Means: Public Hearing on Thursday, April 4th

- One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019, as well as a recommendation from the Orca Task Force.
- Requires tug escorts for barges and mini-tankers, which are a proven oil spill prevention tool, in Rosario Strait and gives state the authority to establish other tug escorts in the waters around the San Juan Islands.
- 2019 marks 30 years since the oil spill from the Exxon Valdez in Alaska, which resulted in making one of the two orca pods in Prince William Sound functionally extinct.

HB 1579: Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance.

SUPPORT
Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: Possible Executive Session

- One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019, as well as a recommendation from the Orca Task Force.
- Includes recommendations from the Orca Task Force to secure the food web to ensure enough forage fish for Chinook salmon and healthy Chinook populations for orcas.
- The centerpiece of the bill is providing WDFW with the same tools that other agencies have to enforce critical environmental laws.

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.