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

**HB 1126: Enabling electric utilities to prepare for the distributed energy future.**

**SUPPORT**

Possible Floor Action

- Establishes state policy that any distributed energy resources planning process engaged in by an electric utility should identify potential programs to fairly compensate customers for the value of their Distributed Energy resources.
- Creates a 10-year plan for distribution system investments and analyze non-wire alternatives.

**HB 1512: Concerning the electrification of transportation.**

**SUPPORT**

Possible Floor Action

- Provides further clarity to utilities regulated by the Utilities and Transportation Commission to deploy electric vehicle supply equipment, transportation electrification plans and programs.
- Authorizes consumer owned utilities to adopt transportation electrification plans and provide incentives.

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

**SUPPORT**
Senate Ways & Means: Possible Executive Session
- 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.

HB 1444: Concerning appliance efficiency standards.

**SUPPORT**
Senate Ways & Means: Possible Executive Session
- 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: Possible Executive Session
- 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 Ways & Means: 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.

SB 5996: Funding fire prevention and suppression activities.

**SUPPORT**
Senate Ways & Means: Public Hearing on Monday, April 8th and Possible Executive Session
- Creates a dedicated funding source for wildfire suppression, forest health and prevention through a small increase on the tax on property and casualty insurance premiums from 2 to 2.52%.
The threat of destructive wildfires and smoke-filled summers is growing, and more than 2.2 million homes in Washington are in wildfire-prone areas. Wildfire suppression costs have averaged $153 million per year over the past five years.

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.